United Nations S/2015/480

Security Council

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English
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Identical letters dated 26 June 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, and in response to the baseless allegations made in the letter addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2015/454) and a similar letter addressed to the Secretary-General, I should like to convey to you the following information:

After more than four years of crisis, the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic has proven the soundness of its position and its understanding of the events unfolding in Syria. Since the beginning of the crisis, the Syrian Government has rejected any interference in its internal affairs and asserted its right to stand firm in the face of an unprecedented crisis in international relations in which certain States, first in secret and then brazenly, have trained, armed and financed terrorists of various nationalities, and then dispatched them to Syria to wage a brutal war of terror against that country's very existence. Incredibly, the States that now claim to be shedding tears for the Syrian people are the very same States that, since the beginning of the crisis, have striven to establish working groups, both within and outside the United Nations, and have submitted provocative draft resolutions to the Security Council with a view to covering up the crimes of variously-named terrorist groups, shuffling the cards and turning the situation in Syria into yet another of the world's geopolitical conflicts. Those States have used various pretexts to justify their actions, including the protection of civilians, the humanitarian situation, the use of chemical weapons, chlorine gas and, now, so-called barrel bombs.

All the resolutions adopted by the Security Council since the beginning of the crisis in Syria, namely, resolutions 2042 (2012), 2043 (2012), 2118 (2013), 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014) and 2191 (2014), have reaffirmed the Council's strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of Syria, and to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. Nonetheless, the States that drafted and signed the above-mentioned letters have completely disregarded that obligation, which is clearly stipulated in those Security Council resolutions. It is also made abundantly clear by the fact that, since the beginning of the events in Syria, those States have turned a blind eye to the policies of the regimes and Governments of the countries that caused the crisis, including Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Jordan, Turkey and Israel. In addition, they have blatantly disregarded the training provided by the United States of America in camps in those countries to terrorists to whom it refers to as the "armed moderate opposition", with

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the aim of later sending those terrorists across the border to kill Syrians. The failure of the States that submitted the above-mentioned letters to uphold the relevant Security Council resolutions is also made clear by their utter disregard for Israel's brazen links to terrorist organizations, including the Nusrah Front and others, operating in the occupied Syrian Golan that are complicit in the abduction of United Nations Disengagement Observer Force peacekeepers. They also turn a blind eye to the fact that some 2,000 members of those terrorist organizations have received hospital treatment in Israel, which then returns them to the area of separation so that they can continue their terrorist activity. It is therefore ironic that, in addition to the above-mentioned States, the letters were also signed by Israel.

The question that presents itself is how do the three States that submitted the letters view the fact that the United States Central Intelligence Agency is spending $1 billion annually on terrorist training in order to create an army of 10,000 terrorists to kill Syrians and destroy that country's infrastructure? How can those three States justify the provision to terrorists of the mortar shells and rockets that fall daily on civilians in Damascus, Aleppo and other Syrian cities? Moreover, how do they explain the facilitation by the terror-supporting Turkish regime of the smuggling of oil, gas and antiquities; the support provided by that regime to terrorist groups launching attacks on Syrian border towns; the fact that that it has handed over official border crossings to those groups; and, under the pretext of providing humanitarian aid, that it has supplied them with arms, including such indiscriminate weapons as mortars? In that connection, we underscore that thousands of civilians, most of whom were women and children, have been killed in terrorist bombings and by mortar shells fired by armed terrorist groups on Syrian cities.

The letters fail to mention the massacres, beheadings and mutilation of corpses committed by armed terrorist groups, or those groups' destruction and looting of archaeological and historical sites, the antiquities from which they sell in order to obtain funds and weapons. The letters also do not mention the targeting by those groups of the various components of Syrian society, thereby threatening Syria's very social fabric, or their destruction of Syrian State infrastructure, including State medical, educational and social service facilities, and of public and private property, as has been comprehensively documented in United Nations reports.

The letters demonstrate political bias, partiality and an unprecedented degree of hypocrisy because they overlook the destructive role played by certain States from the Arab world, the region and beyond. Those States, in the service of their destructive agendas and narrow interests, are exploiting the situation in Syria by fomenting and fuelling violence and recruiting foreign terrorist extremists and mercenaries from 100 United Nations Member States with the goal of undermining security and stability in Syria and partitioning the countries of the region. The letters also fails to mention the violations committed by some of the States that signed the letters of Security Council resolutions, including, in particular, resolutions 1267 (1999), 1373 (2001), 1540 (2004), 1624 (2005), 2133 (2014), 2170 (2014), 2178 (2014) and 2199 (2015).

The campaigns against the Syrian Government have a very clear purpose, namely, to tarnish its image, distract attention from its fight against terrorism and target both the Syrian Government and people. The three States that submitted the letters are members of the European Union, which is distorting events in Syria and

punishing the Syrian people for rallying around its Government by imposing unilateral coercive economic measures in violation of international law and United Nations resolutions.

In line with its constitutional obligations, the Syrian Government is taking all possible measures to protect its people from the crimes that have been perpetrated for more than four years by terrorist groups in various parts of Syria. It is ironic that those States that deny Syria's right to combat terrorism in its territory are the very same States that, from thousands of miles away and on the pretext of fighting that very same terrorism, have established international alliances on Syrian territory. We would like to underscore that, in its efforts to combat terrorism, the Syrian Army is committed to upholding international law and is doing everything possible to avoid casualties among civilians, who are being deliberately used by terrorist groups as human shields. This is one of the key factors that has prolonged the crisis and prevented the Syrian Army from eradicating terrorists in a number of areas in which they have been active. Moreover, the Syrian Army, like other armies, including those of the States that signed those shameful letters, uses conventional weapons to combat terrorism.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic affirms its resolve to continue combating terrorism and to defend its people, in accordance with its constitutional duties. It calls upon the Security Council and the Secretary General to condemn the policy of applying double standards in the fight against terrorism and to take stern measures against armed terrorist groups and their State sponsors.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic
to the United Nations

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Security Council

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Angola, Chad, France, Jordan, Lithuania, Malaysia, Nigeria, Spain, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela: draft resolution

The Security Council,

Recalling its previous resolutions, in particular 2164 (2014) and 2100 (2013), its Presidential Statements of 6 February 2015 (S/PRST/2015/5), 28 July 2014 (S/PRST/2014/15) and 23 January 2014 (S/PRST/2014/2), and its press statements of 18 June 2015, 29 May 2015, 1 May 2015 and 10 April 2015,

Reaffirming its strong commitment to the sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Mali, *emphasizing* that the Malian authorities have primary responsibility for the provision of stability and security throughout the territory of Mali, and *underscoring* the importance of achieving national ownership of peace- and security-related initiatives,

Reaffirming the basic principles of peacekeeping, including consent of the parties, impartiality, and non-use of force, except in self-defence and defence of the mandate, and *recognizing* that the mandate of each peacekeeping mission is specific to the need and situation of the country concerned,

Recognizing the legitimate aspiration of all Malian citizens to enjoy lasting peace and development,

Welcoming the signing of the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali (« the Agreement ») in 2015 by the Government of Mali, the *Plateforme* coalition of armed groups, and the *Coordination des Mouvements de l'Azawad* coalition of armed groups, as a historic opportunity to achieve lasting peace in Mali, and *commending* the signatories of the Agreement for the courage they demonstrated in this regard,

Considering the Agreement as balanced and comprehensive, aiming to address the political, institutional, governance, security, development and reconciliation dimensions of the crisis in Mali, respecting the sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of the Malian State,

Underscoring that the responsibility for the full and effective implementation of the Agreement, which has to be Malian-led and Malian-owned, rests with the Government of Mali, the *Plateforme* and *Coordination* armed groups, and will be

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crucial to contribute to lasting peace in Mali, drawing lessons from previous peace agreements,

Commending the role played by Algeria and other members of the international mediation team to facilitate the inter-Malian dialogue which led to the signing of the Agreement by the Government of Mali, the *Plateforme* and *Coordination* armed groups, *welcoming* the signing of the Agreement by the members of the international mediation team, and *calling on* the members of the *Comité de Suivi de l'Accord* (CSA) and other relevant international partners to support the implementation of the Agreement and to maintain close coordination to support lasting peace in Mali,

Stressing the need for clear, detailed and concrete oversight mechanisms to support the implementation of the Agreement, notably through the CSA and its four subcommittees dealing with political and institutional issues, defence and security, economic, social and cultural development, and reconciliation, justice and humanitarian issues,

Strongly condemning the violations of the ceasefire by the Malian parties that occurred in Mali, which led to loss of life, including of civilians, and displacement and undermined the peace process, *welcoming* the signing of the *Arrangement sécuritaire pour une cessation des hostilités* on 5 June 2015 by the Government of Mali and the *Coordination* armed groups, and *recalling* the ceasefire agreement of 23 May 2014, and the declarations of cessation of hostilities of 19 February 2015 and 24 July 2014 signed by the Malian parties,

Reiterating its strong support for the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Mali and for the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) to assist the Malian authorities and the Malian people in their efforts to bring lasting peace and stability to their country, *noting* the development of the Protection of Civilians strategy of MINUSMA, bearing in mind the primary responsibility of the Malian authorities to protect the population,

Commending troop and police contributing countries of MINUSMA for their contribution, *paying tribute* to the peacekeepers who risk their lives in this respect, strongly *condemning* attacks against peacekeepers, and *underlining* that attacks targeting peacekeepers may constitute war crimes under international law,

Expressing its concern at the slow pace of deployment of personnel and equipment of MINUSMA, which has seriously hindered its ability to fully implement its mandate since its establishment on 25 April 2013 by its resolution 2100 (2013), *welcoming* efforts by the Secretary-General to accelerate the deployment of troops and equipment, as well as to provide adequate training, to improve the security and safety of MINUSMA's personnel in a complex security environment that includes asymmetric threats, notably the use of mines and IEDs,

Strongly condemning the activities in Mali and in the Sahel region of terrorist organisations, including Al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), Ansar Eddine, the Movement for Unity and Jihad in West Africa (MUJAO), which continue to operate in Mali and constitute a threat to peace and security in the region and beyond, and human rights abuses and violence against civilians, notably women and children, committed in the North of Mali and in the region by terrorist groups,

Stressing that terrorism can only be defeated by a sustained and comprehensive approach involving the active participation and collaboration of all States, and regional and international organisations to impede, impair, and isolate the terrorist threat, and *reaffirming* that terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality or civilization,

Recalling the listing of MUJAO, the Organisation of Al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb, Ansar Eddine and its leader Iyad Ag Ghali, and Al Mourabitoune on the Al-Qaida sanctions list established by the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011), and *reiterating its readiness*, under the above-mentioned regime, to sanction further individuals, groups, undertakings and entities who are associated with Al-Qaida and other listed entities and individuals, including AQIM, MUJAO, Ansar Eddine and Al Mourabitoune, in accordance with the established listing criteria,

Welcoming the continued action by the French forces, at the request of the Malian authorities, to deter the terrorist threat in the North of Mali,

Noting with growing concern the transnational dimension of the terrorist threat in the Sahel region, *underscoring* the importance of achieving regional ownership and response in this regard, *welcoming* in this context the establishment of the Group of Five for the Sahel (G5) and the Nouakchott process on the enhancement of the security cooperation and the operationalization of the African peace and security architecture in the Sahel and Sahara region (APSA), as well as the commitment made by the African leaders at the Malabo Summit of 26-27 June 2014 and steps taken by the African Union to operationalize the African Capacity for Immediate Response to Crisis (ACIRC), and *welcoming* the efforts of the French forces to support G5 Member States to increase regional counter-terrorism cooperation,

Expressing its continued concern over the serious threats posed by transnational organized crime in the Sahel region, including arms and drug trafficking, human trafficking, and its increasing links, in some cases, with terrorism, *underlining* the responsibility of the countries in the region in addressing these threats, and *welcoming* the stabilizing effect of the international presence in Mali, including MINUSMA,

Strongly condemning the incidents of kidnapping and hostage-taking with the aim of raising funds or gaining political concessions, *reiterating* its determination to prevent kidnapping and hostage-taking in the Sahel region, in accordance with applicable international law, *recalling* its resolution 2133 (2014) and including its call upon all Member States to prevent terrorists from benefitting directly or indirectly from the payment of ransoms or from political concessions and to secure the safe release of hostages and, in this regard, *noting* the publication of the Global Counterterrorism Forum's (GCTF) "Algiers Memorandum on Good Practices on Preventing and Denying the Benefits of Kidnapping for Ransom by Terrorists",

Strongly condemning all abuses and violations of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law, including those involving extrajudicial and summary executions, arbitrary arrests and detentions and ill-treatment of prisoners, sexual and gender-based violence, as well as killing, maiming, recruitment and use of children, attacks against schools and hospitals, *calling on* all parties to respect the civilian character of schools as such in accordance with international humanitarian law and to cease unlawful and arbitrary detention of all children, and *calling upon*

all parties to bring an end to such violations and abuses and to comply with their obligations under applicable international law,

Reiterating, in this regard, that all perpetrators of such acts must be held accountable and that some of such acts referred to in the paragraph above may amount to crimes under the Rome Statute and *taking note* that, acting upon the referral of the transitional authorities of Mali dated 13 July 2012, the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court opened, on 16 January 2013, an investigation into alleged crimes committed on the territory of Mali since January 2012, and *recalling* the importance of assistance and cooperation, by all parties concerned, with the Court,

Emphasizing the need for all parties to uphold and respect the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence in order to ensure the continued provision of humanitarian assistance, the safety and protection of civilians receiving assistance and the security of humanitarian personnel operating in Mali, and *stressing* the importance of humanitarian assistance being delivered on the basis of need,

Underscoring that Malian civilian control and oversight as well as further consolidation of the Malian Defence and Security Forces are important to ensure Mali's long-term security and stability and to protect the people of Mali,

Commending the role of the European Union Training Mission (EUTM Mali) in Mali in providing training and advice for the Malian Defence and Security Forces, including contributing to the strengthening of civilian authority and respect for human rights, and of the European Union Capacity Building Mission (EUCAP Sahel Mali) in providing strategic advice and training for the Police, Gendarmerie and Garde nationale in Mali,

Calling upon the Malian authorities to address immediate and long-term needs, encompassing security, governance reform, development and humanitarian issues, to resolve the crisis in Mali and to ensure that the Agreement translates into concrete benefits for the local populations, notably through the priority projects outlined in the Agreement, *calling on* the international community to provide broad support in this regard, and *stressing* the need for enhanced coordination of these international efforts,

Commending the contributions already made following donors' conference held in Brussels in May 2013 and toward the 2015 Consolidated Appeal for Mali, and *urging* all Member States and other donors to contribute generously to humanitarian operations,

Remaining seriously concerned over the significant ongoing food and humanitarian crisis in Mali, and over the insecurity which hinders humanitarian access, exacerbated by the presence of armed groups, terrorist and criminal networks, and their activities, the presence of landmines as well as the continued proliferation of weapons from within and outside the region that threatens the peace, security, and stability of States in this region, and *condemning* attacks against humanitarian personnel,

Determining that the situation in Mali continues to constitute a threat to international peace and security,

Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations,

Framework for peace and reconciliation and the implementation of the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali

1. *Urges* the Government of Mali, the *Plateforme* and *Coordination* armed groups to fulfil their commitments under the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali, and in this regard, *further urges* them to continue to engage constructively with sustained political will and in good faith to achieve the full and effective implementation of the Agreement;

2. *Urges* the Government of Mali, the *Plateforme* and *Coordination* armed groups to immediately and fully respect and uphold the ceasefire agreement of 23 May 2014, the *Arrangement sécuritaire pour une cessation des hostilités* of 5 June 2015, and the declarations of cessation of hostilities of 19 February 2015 and 24 July 2014;

3. *Expresses* its readiness to consider targeted sanctions against those who take actions to obstruct or threaten the implementation of the Agreement, those who resume hostilities and violate the ceasefire, as well as those who attack and take actions to threaten MINUSMA;

4. *Demands* that all armed groups in Mali put aside their arms, cease hostilities, reject the recourse to violence, cut off all ties with terrorist organisations and recognize, without conditions, the unity and territorial integrity of the Malian State;

5. *Urges* the Malian authorities to further combat impunity and, in this regard, to ensure that all perpetrators of violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law, including those involving sexual violence, are held accountable, and also *urges* the Malian authorities to continue to cooperate with the International Criminal Court, in accordance with Mali's obligations under the Rome Statute;

6. *Urges* all parties in Mali to cooperate fully with the deployment and activities of MINUSMA, in particular by ensuring the safety, security and freedom of movement of MINUSMA's personnel with unhindered and immediate access throughout the territory of Mali to enable MINUSMA to carry out fully its mandate;

7. *Requests* the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Mali to continue to use his good offices, particularly to play a key role to support and oversee the implementation of the Agreement by the Government of Mali, the *Plateforme* and *Coordination* armed groups, notably by heading the Secretariat of the *Comité de suivi de l'Accord* (CSA), and in particular, to assist the Malian parties in identifying and prioritizing implementation steps, consistent with the provisions of the Agreement and with paragraph 14 (b) and (c) below, and *affirms* its intention to facilitate, support and follow closely the implementation of the Agreement;

8. *Urges* the Government of Mali, the *Plateforme* and *Coordination* armed groups to cooperate fully and coordinate with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Mali and MINUSMA, in particular on the implementation of the Agreement;

9. *Calls on* the members of the CSA and other relevant international partners to support the implementation of the Agreement, and to coordinate their efforts with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Mali and

MINUSMA in this regard, and *recognizes* the role of the CSA to reconcile disagreements between the Malian parties;

10. *Encourages* the Government of Mali to take the necessary steps for the effective implementation of the Agreement, including political and institutional reforms;

11. *Calls on* all relevant United Nations agencies, as well as regional, bilateral and multilateral partners to provide the necessary technical and financial support to contribute to the implementation of the Agreement, in particular its provisions pertaining to socioeconomic and cultural development;

MINUSMA's mandate

12. *Decides* to extend the mandate of MINUSMA until 30 June 2016 within the authorized troop ceiling of 11,240 military personnel, including at least 40 military observers to monitor and supervise the ceasefire, as well as reserve battalions capable of deploying rapidly within the country, and 1,440 police personnel;

13. *Authorizes* MINUSMA to take all necessary means to carry out its mandate, within its capabilities and its areas of deployment;

14. *Decides* that MINUSMA shall perform the following tasks:

(a) Ceasefire

To support, monitor and supervise the implementation of the ceasefire arrangements and confidence-building measures by the Government of Mali, the *Plateforme* and *Coordination* armed groups, to devise and support, as needed, local mechanisms with a view to consolidate these arrangements and measures, as well as to report to the Security Council on any violations of the ceasefire, consistent with the provisions of the Agreement, especially its Part III and Annex 2;

(b) Support to the implementation of the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali

(i) To support the implementation of the political and institutional reforms provided for by the Agreement, especially in its Part II;

(ii) To support the implementation of the defence and security measures of the Agreement, notably to support, monitor and supervise the ceasefire, to support the cantonment, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of armed groups, as well as the progressive redeployment of the Malian Defence and Security Forces especially in the North of Mali, taking into account the security conditions, and to coordinate international efforts, in close collaboration with other bilateral partners, donors and international organisations, including the European Union, engaged in these fields, to rebuild the Malian security sector, within the framework set out by the Agreement, especially its Part III and Annex 2;

(iii) To support the implementation of the reconciliation and justice measures of the Agreement, especially in its Part V, notably the establishment of an international commission of inquiry, in consultation with the parties;

(iv) To support, within its resources and areas of deployment, the conduct of inclusive, free, fair and transparent local elections, including through the provision of appropriate logistical and technical assistance and effective security arrangements, consistent with the provisions of the Agreement;

(c) Good offices and reconciliation

To exercise good offices, confidence-building and facilitation at the national and local levels, in order to support dialogue with and among all stakeholders towards reconciliation and social cohesion and to encourage and support the full implementation of the Agreement by the Government of Mali, the *Plateforme* and *Coordination* armed groups, including by promoting the participation of civil society, including women's organizations, as well as youth organizations;

(d) Protection of civilians and stabilization

(i) To protect, without prejudice to the primary responsibility of the Malian authorities, civilians under imminent threat of physical violence;

(ii) In support of the Malian authorities, to stabilize the key population centres and other areas where civilians are at risk, notably in the North of Mali, including through long-range patrols, and, in this context, to deter threats and take active steps to prevent the return of armed elements to those areas;

(iii) To provide specific protection for women and children affected by armed conflict, including through Child Protection Advisors and Women Protection Advisors, and address the needs of victims of sexual and gender-based violence in armed conflict;

(iv) To assist the Malian authorities with the removal and destruction of mines and other explosive devices and weapons and ammunition management;

(e) Promotion and protection of human rights

(i) To assist the Malian authorities in their efforts to promote and protect human rights, including to support, as feasible and appropriate, the efforts of the Malian authorities, without prejudice to their responsibilities, to bring to justice those responsible for serious abuses or violations of human rights or violations of international humanitarian law, in particular war crimes and crimes against humanity in Mali, taking into account the referral by the transitional authorities of Mali of the situation in their country since January 2012 to the International Criminal Court;

(ii) To monitor, help investigate and report to the Security Council and publicly, as appropriate, on violations of international humanitarian law and on violations and abuses of human rights, including violations and abuses against children and sexual violence in armed conflict committed throughout Mali and to contribute to efforts to prevent such violations and abuses;

(f) Humanitarian assistance and projects for stabilization

(i) In support of the Malian authorities, to contribute to the creation of a secure environment for the safe, civilian-led delivery of humanitarian

assistance, in accordance with humanitarian principles, and the voluntary, safe and dignified return or local integration or resettlement of internally displaced persons and refugees in close coordination with humanitarian actors;

(ii) In support of the Malian authorities, to contribute to the creation of a secure environment for projects aimed at stabilizing the North of Mali, including quick impact projects;

(g) Protection, safety and security of United Nations personnel

To protect the United Nations personnel, notably uniformed personnel, installations and equipment and ensure the safety, security and freedom of movement of United Nations and associated personnel;

(h) Support for cultural preservation

To assist the Malian authorities, as necessary and feasible, in protecting from attack the cultural and historical sites in Mali, in collaboration with UNESCO;

Deployment and capacities of MINUSMA

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take all necessary steps, including through the full use of existing authorities and at his discretion, to enable MINUSMA to reach its full operational capacity without further delay;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take all appropriate additional measures to enhance the safety and security of, and basic services for, MINUSMA's personnel, in particular uniformed personnel, including through enhancing MINUSMA's intelligence capacities, providing training and equipment to counter explosive devices, the generation of adequate military capabilities to secure MINUSMA's logistical supply routes, as well as more effective casualty and medical evacuation procedures, to enable MINUSMA to execute effectively its mandate in a complex security environment that includes asymmetric threats;

17. *Urges* MINUSMA's troop and police contributing countries to expedite the procurement and deployment of remaining contingent-owned equipment and *urges* Member States to provide troops and police that have adequate capabilities, training and equipment, including enablers, specific to the operating environment, in order for MINUSMA to fulfil its mandate and *welcomes* the assistance of Member States to MINUSMA's troop and police contributing countries in this regard;

18. *Calls upon* Member States, especially those in the region, to ensure the free, unhindered and expeditious movement to and from Mali of all personnel, as well as equipment, provisions, supplies and other goods, which are for the exclusive and official use of MINUSMA, in order to facilitate the timely and cost-effective delivery of the logistical supply of MINUSMA;

19. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to keep the Mission concept under review, in order to maximize the positive impact of MINUSMA's resources, and *requests* the Secretary-General to keep it informed on its implementation;

Cross-cutting issues of MINUSMA's mandate

20. *Requests* MINUSMA to further enhance its interaction with the civilian population, as well as its communication with the Malian Defence and Security Forces, including through the development of an effective communication strategy and MINUSMA radio, to raise awareness and understanding about its mandate and activities;

21. *Requests* MINUSMA to ensure that any support provided to non-United Nations security forces is provided in strict compliance with the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy on United Nations support to non-United Nations security forces (HRDDP);

22. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure full compliance of MINUSMA with the United Nations zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuses and to keep the Council fully informed if such cases of misconduct occur;

23. *Requests* MINUSMA to take fully into account gender considerations as a cross-cutting issue throughout its mandate and to assist the Malian authorities in ensuring the full and effective participation, involvement and representation of women at all levels and at an early stage of the stabilization phase, including the security sector reform and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration processes, as well as in reconciliation and electoral processes and further *requests* MINUSMA to assist the parties to ensure women's full and active participation in the implementation of the Agreement;

24. *Requests* MINUSMA to take fully into account child protection as a cross-cutting issue throughout its mandate and to assist the Malian authorities in ensuring that the protection of children's rights is taken into account, inter alia, in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration processes and in security sector reform in order to end and prevent violations and abuses against children;

25. *Requests* MINUSMA to consider the environmental impacts of its operations when fulfilling its mandated tasks and, in this context, to manage them as appropriate and in accordance with applicable and relevant General Assembly resolutions and United Nations rules and regulations, and to operate mindfully in the vicinity of cultural and historical sites;

Inter-mission cooperation in West Africa

26. *Authorizes* the Secretary-General to take the necessary steps in order to ensure inter-mission cooperation, notably between MINUSMA, UNMIL and UNOCI, appropriate transfers of troops and their assets from other United Nations missions to MINUSMA, subject to the following conditions: (i) the Council's information and approval, including on the scope and duration of the transfer, (ii) the agreement of the troop-contributing countries and (iii) the security situation where these United Nations missions are deployed and without prejudice to the performance of their mandates, and, in this regard, *encourages* further steps to enhance inter-mission cooperation in the West African region, as necessary and feasible, and to report thereon for consideration as appropriate;

French forces mandate

27. *Authorizes* French forces, within the limits of their capacities and areas of deployment, to use all necessary means until the end of MINUSMA's mandate as authorized in this resolution, to intervene in support of elements of MINUSMA when under imminent and serious threat upon request of the Secretary-General, and *requests* France to report to the Council on the implementation of this mandate in Mali and to coordinate its reporting with the reporting by the Secretary-General referred to in paragraph 35 below;

G5 Sahel and African Union contribution

28. *Encourages* the Member States of the Sahel region to improve coordination to combat recurrent threats in the Sahel, including terrorism, together with transnational organized crime and other illicit activities such as drug trafficking, *welcomes* the efforts of the Member States of the Sahel to strengthen border security and regional cooperation, including through the G5 Sahel and the Nouakchott process on the enhancement of the security cooperation and the operationalization of the African Peace and Security Architecture in the Sahel and Sahara region (APSA), as well as the commitment made by the African leaders at the Malabo Summit of 26-27 June 2014 and steps taken by the African Union to operationalize the African Capacity for Immediate Response to Crisis (ACIRC), and *encourages* the Member States of the African Union to generate substantive pledges to the ACIRC;

International cooperation on the Sahel

29. *Calls upon* all Member States, notably Sahel, West Africa and Maghreb States, as well as regional, bilateral and multilateral partners, to enhance their coordination to develop inclusive and effective strategies to combat in a comprehensive and integrated manner the activities of terrorist groups crossing borders and seeking safe havens in the Sahel region, notably AQIM, MUJAO, Ansar Eddine and Al Mourabitoune, and to prevent the expansion of those groups as well as to limit the proliferation of all arms and transnational organized crime;

30. *Reiterates* its call for the rapid and effective implementation, in consultation with regional organisations, of regional strategies encompassing security, governance, development, human rights and humanitarian issues such as the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel region, and *recalls* in this regard the good offices role of its Special Envoy for the Sahel in order to enhance regional and interregional cooperation, in close coordination with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa;

European Union contribution

31. *Calls on* the European Union, notably its Special Representative for the Sahel and its EUTM Mali and EUCAP Sahel Mali missions, to coordinate closely with MINUSMA, and other bilateral partners of Mali engaged to assist the Malian authorities in the Security Sector Reform (SSR), as provided for by the Agreement and consistent with paragraph 14 (b) (ii) above;

Obligations under international humanitarian and human rights law

32. *Urges* all parties to comply with obligations under international humanitarian law to respect and protect humanitarian personnel, facilities and relief consignments, and take all required steps to allow and facilitate the full, safe, immediate and unimpeded access of humanitarian actors for the delivery of humanitarian assistance to all people in need, while respecting the United Nations humanitarian guiding principles and applicable international law;

33. *Reiterates* that the Malian authorities have primary responsibility to protect civilians in Mali, *further recalls* its resolutions 1265 (1999), 1296 (2000), 1674 (2006), 1738 (2006) and 1894 (2009) on the protection of civilians in armed conflict, its resolutions 1612 (2005), 1882 (2009), 1998 (2011), 2068 (2012), 2143 (2014) and 2225 (2015) on Children And Armed Conflict and its resolutions 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009), 1889 (2009), 1960 (2010), 2106 (2013) and 2122 (2013) on Women, Peace and Security and *calls upon* MINUSMA and all military forces in Mali to take them into account and to abide by international humanitarian, human rights and refugee law, and *recalls* the importance of training in this regard, and *urges* all parties to implement the conclusions on Children And Armed Conflict in Mali adopted by the Security Council working group on 7 July 2014;

Small arms and light weapons

34. *Calls upon* the Malian authorities, with the assistance of MINUSMA, consistent with paragraph 14 above, and international partners, to address the issue of the proliferation and illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons in accordance with the ECOWAS Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and Other Related Materials and the United Nations Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons, in order to ensure the safe and effective management, storage and security of their stockpiles of small arms and light weapons and the collection and/or destruction of surplus, seized, unmarked or illicitly held weapons, and further *stresses* the importance of the full implementation of its resolutions 2017 (2011), 2117 (2013) and 2220 (2015);

Reports by the Secretary-General and review of the mandate

35. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Security Council every three months after the adoption of this resolution on the implementation of this resolution, focusing on the progress in the implementation of the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali and on MINUSMA's efforts to support it;

36. *Affirms* its intention to consider reviewing the mandate of MINUSMA before 30 June 2016, as necessary, especially in light of progress made on the implementation of the Agreement;

37. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.

United Nations S/2015/482

Security Council

Distr.: General
29 June 2015

Original: English

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: draft resolution

The Security Council,

Reaffirming all its previous resolutions and presidential statements concerning the situation in Sudan and underlining the importance of full compliance with these,

Reaffirming its strong commitment to the sovereignty, unity, independence and territorial integrity of Sudan and its determination to work with the Government of Sudan, in full respect of its sovereignty, to assist in tackling the various challenges in Sudan,

Recalling the importance of the principles of the peaceful settlement of international disputes, good neighbourliness, non-interference and cooperation in the relations among States in the region,

Reaffirming the basic principles of peacekeeping, including consent of the parties, impartiality and non-use of force, except in self-defence and defence of the mandate, and recognizing that the mandate of each peacekeeping mission is specific to the country concerned,

Recalling all its relevant resolutions on women, peace and security, on children and armed conflicts, on the protection of humanitarian and United Nations personnel, and on the protection of civilians in armed conflicts,

Expressing deep concern at the serious deterioration in the security situation in Darfur overall so far in 2015, and the profound negative impact of this on civilians, in particular women and children, in particular through a marked escalation of hostilities between Government forces and rebel armed groups, as well as an escalation of inter-communal conflicts over land, access to resources, migration issues and tribal rivalries, including with the involvement of paramilitary units and tribal militias, and a rise in criminality and banditry targeting the local population; further expressing deep concern that the deteriorating security situation, as characterised by attacks by rebel groups and Government forces, aerial bombardment, by the Government of Sudan, inter-tribal fighting, banditry and criminality, continues to threaten civilians; and reiterating its demand that all parties to the conflict in Darfur immediately end violence, including attacks on civilians, peacekeepers and humanitarian personnel,

In this regard, *expressing* concern at evidence, collected by AU-UN Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID), of two air-delivered cluster bombs near Kirigiyati, North Darfur, taking note that UNAMID disposed of them safely, and reiterating the

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Secretary-General's call on the Government of Sudan to immediately investigate the use of cluster munitions,

Emphasizing that those responsible for violations of international humanitarian law and violations and abuses of human rights must be held accountable and that the Government of Sudan bears the primary responsibility to protect civilians within its territory and subject to its jurisdiction, including protection from crimes against humanity and war crimes,

Recalling its resolution 2117 (2013) and expressing concern at the threat to peace and security in Darfur arising from the illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons, and the continued threats to civilians posed by unexploded ordnance,

Expressing deep concern at the significant increase in population displacements in 2014 and so far in 2015 and the consequent increase in humanitarian assistance and protection needs, with 430,000newly displaced in 2014, around 300,000 of whom have been unable to return to their homes, a total number of long-term Internally-Displaced Persons (IDPs) of 2.5 million and a total number of people in need of humanitarian assistance of 4.4 million,

Recalling the commitments made by the Government of Sudan and other signatories to the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur (DDPD) to ensure the unimpeded access of humanitarian assistance to the population in need and the protection of humanitarian workers and their operations in areas under their control, as well as to guarantee UNAMID unimpeded freedom of movement in all areas and at all times in Darfur in the exercise of its mandate, and further recalling the role of the Implementation Follow-up Commission (IFC) in assessing the implementation of the DDPD,

Expressing concern that the continued denial of access and restrictions imposed on humanitarian actors have left significant gaps in the delivery of humanitarian assistance, calling on the Government of Sudan to ensure humanitarian actors can operate in support of addressing basic needs,

Calling on donors, the Darfur Regional Authority and the Government of Sudan to provide the financial resources necessary to reach those in need,

Reiterating that there can be no military solution to the conflict in Darfur, and that an inclusive political settlement is essential to re-establishing peace, and underscoring the importance of fully addressing the root causes of the conflict in the search for a sustainable peace, which should rapidly deliver real benefits for the Darfuri people, in this regard reiterating its support for the DDPD as a viable framework for the peace process in Darfur, and for its accelerated implementation, as well as the AU High-Level Implementation Panel (AU-HIP) mediated peace talks, and any credible moves to lay the groundwork for an inclusive, comprehensive and nationally-owned National Dialogue in Sudan,

Deploring the fact that some armed groups are impeding the peace process and have continued to resort to violence, reiterating its demand for the release of members of the former movement of Mohamed Bashar, taken captive in May 2013 by JEM-Gibril forces, and condemning any actions by any armed group aimed at forced overthrow of the Government of Sudan,

Noting that UNAMID's ability to facilitate progress in implementation of the DDPD is hampered by delays and the absence of an inclusive political settlement between the government and non-signatory movements, urging the signatory parties to take the necessary remaining steps to implement the DDPD fully, expressing concern that the humanitarian and security situation, as well as the lack of capacity of the Darfur Regional Authority, hinder the transition from relief to stabilization and development activities, urging donors and the Government of Sudan to honour their pledges and fulfil their obligations in a timely manner, including those commitments made at the conference in Doha in April 2013, and affirming that development can support a lasting peace in Darfur,

Noting that local dispute resolution mechanisms play an important role in preventing and resolving inter-communal conflict, including conflict over natural resources, urging an intensification of effective efforts to prevent local disputes leading to violence, with its corresponding impact on the local civilian populations, acknowledging the efforts of Sudanese authorities and local mediators to mediate in inter-tribal fighting, with support from UNAMID and the UN Country Team (UNCT), and urging their continued work,

Welcoming regional and other initiatives, undertaken in close interaction with the Government of Sudan, to address the root causes of the conflict in Darfur and to promote a sustainable peace, including the convening by the President of Chad, Idriss Deby Itno, of two mediation fora, encouraging the full coordination of such initiatives with the efforts of the Joint Special Representative (JSR), and commending the efforts of the JSR to secure peace, stability and security in Darfur, including through support to international, regional and national efforts to revitalise the peace process and increase its inclusiveness,

Underlining, without prejudice to the Security Council's primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, the importance of the partnership between the United Nations and the African Union (AU), consistent with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, with regard to the maintenance of peace and security in Africa, particularly in Sudan,

Calling on all parties to comply with their obligations under international human rights law and international humanitarian law, stressing the importance that the Council attaches to ending impunity including through ensuring accountability and bringing to justice the perpetrators of crimes committed by all parties in Darfur, urging the Government of Sudan to comply with its obligations in this respect, welcoming the ongoing investigations by the Special Prosecutor for Darfur appointed by the Government of Sudan and stressing the need for further progress in this regard, reiterating the call for swift progress on the draft Memorandum of Understanding providing for UNAMID and African Union observation of the proceedings of the Special Court, and calling on the Government of Sudan swiftly to investigate attacks against UNAMID, and to bring the perpetrators to justice,

Reaffirming its concern over the negative effect of ongoing violence in Darfur on the stability of Sudan as a whole as well as the region, welcoming the ongoing good relations between Sudan and Chad, including on border control, and encouraging Sudan, Chad and the Central African Republic to continue to cooperate in order to achieve peace and stability in Darfur and the wider region,

Commending the efforts of UNAMID towards promoting peace and stability in Darfur, and reiterating its full support for UNAMID,

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General of 26 May 2015 (S/2015/378) on UNAMID as well as his special report of 13 March 2015 (S/2015/163),

Taking note of the completion of the review commissioned by the Secretary-General on 2 July 2014 into the issue of under-reporting, and allegations of manipulation of reporting, by UNAMID, and welcoming the recommendations and conclusions contained in the review and the continued implementation of measures to address this issue,

Determining that the situation in Sudan constitutes a threat to international peace and security,

1. *Decides* to extend the mandate of UNAMID, as set out in resolution 1769, until 30 June 2016, and further decides that UNAMID shall consist of up to 15,845 military personnel, 1,583 police personnel and 13 formed police units of up to 140 personnel each;

2. *Reiterates*, in the context of the lack of progress on the benchmarks and the significant deterioration of the security situation, its endorsement of UNAMID's revised strategic priorities as set out in paragraph 4 of resolution 2148 (2014), namely: the protection of civilians, the facilitation of the delivery of humanitarian assistance and the safety and security of humanitarian personnel; mediation between the Government of Sudan and non-signatory armed movements on the basis of the DDPD, while taking into account ongoing democratic transformation at the national level; and support to the mediation of community conflict, including through measures to address its root causes, in conjunction with UN Country Team; welcomes the steps taken so far by UNAMID to implement the review of UNAMID conducted pursuant to resolution 2113 (2014), and requests that UNAMID continue to align all its activity and direct the use of its resources to the achievement of these priorities, discontinue all other tasks not aligned to these priorities and continue to streamline the mission accordingly, and stresses the importance of the appropriate distribution of tasks and coordination between UNAMID and the UNCT in order to implement the review of UNAMID;

3. *Notes* that certain elements of UNAMID's mandate and tasks, as authorized in resolution 1769 (2007), which decided that the mandate of UNAMID shall be as set out in paragraphs 54 and 55 of the report of the Secretary-General and the Chairperson of the African Union Commission of 5 June 2007 (S/2007/307/Rev.1), are no longer relevant, or are either being undertaken by or will soon transition to other entities with comparative advantage, namely those enumerated in paragraphs 54 (g) and (h), 55 (a) (v), 55 (b) (ii-iii), 55 (b) (v), 55 (b) (x) and 55 (c) (iii-iv) of that report;

4. *Underlines* that UNAMID must continue to give priority in decisions about the use of available capacity and resources to: (a) the protection of civilians across Darfur, including women and children, through, and without prejudice to the basic principles of peacekeeping, inter alia, continuing to move to a more preventive and pre-emptive posture in pursuit of its priorities and in active defence of its mandate; enhanced early warning; proactive military deployment and active and effective patrolling in areas at high risk of conflict and high concentration of IDPs; more prompt and effective responses to threats of violence against civilians,

including through regular reviews of the geographic deployment of UNAMID's force; securing IDP camps, adjacent areas and areas of return, including development and training of community policing; and (b) ensuring safe, timely and unhindered humanitarian access, and the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and activities, in accordance with relevant provisions of international law and the UN guiding principles on humanitarian assistance; and requests UNAMID to maximize the use of its capabilities, in cooperation with the UNCT and other international and non-governmental actors, in the implementation of its mission-wide comprehensive strategy for the achievement of these objectives;

5. *Emphasizes* UNAMID's Chapter VII mandate, as defined in resolution 1769 (2007), to deliver its core tasks to protect civilians without prejudice to the primary responsibility of the Government of Sudan and to ensure the freedom of movement and security of UNAMID's own personnel and humanitarian workers; recalls that UNAMID is authorized to take all the necessary action in fulfilment of this mandate; and urges UNAMID to deter any threats against itself and its mandate;

6. *Stresses* that, in the context of the evolving security situation, any refinement of the mission should be based on progress against the benchmarks and the conditions on the ground, and implemented in a gradual, phased, flexible and reversible manner;

7. *Commends* the efforts of the Joint Special Representative (JSR) to revitalise the peace process and to increase its inclusiveness, guided by the Framework for AU and United Nations facilitation of the Darfur Peace Process, including through renewed engagement of the non-signatory movements; emphasizes the importance of the JSR's strengthened coordination with the AU High-level Implementation Panel and the United Nations Special Envoy for Sudan and South Sudan in synchronising their mediation efforts and in generating progress on direct negotiations between the Government of Sudan and the Darfur armed movements;

8. *Welcomes* that progress has been made in implementation of some elements of the DDPD, including the completion of security arrangements for Liberation and Justice Movement and Justice and Equality Movement-Sudan combatants and the conversion of the Liberation and Justice Movement into two political parties, the integration of former rebels into power structures of Sudan but deplores continuing serious delays in overall implementation of the DDPD; urges the signatory parties to implement the DDPD in full, including by ensuring that the institutions established under it are resourced and empowered to carry out their mandates; demands that the non-signatory armed groups refrain from impeding the implementation of the DDPD; and encourages UNAMID, in accordance with its revised strategic priorities, and the UNCT to continue to engage fully in support of implementation of the DDPD;

9. *Demands* that all parties to the conflict in Darfur, including in particular all the non-signatory armed groups, and other groups immediately cease all acts of violence, and commit themselves to a sustained and permanent ceasefire, in order to bring a stable and durable peace to the region;

10. *Reaffirms* its support for a Darfur-based internal dialogue that takes place in an inclusive environment with full respect for the civil and political rights of participants, including the full and effective participation of women and IDPs; welcomes the successful completion of the first phase of the Darfur Internal

Dialogue and Consultation (DIDC) on 26 May; further welcomes the release of USD 2.5 million by the Government of Sudan as part of its contribution to the funding of the DIDC; expresses concern that prevailing insecurity, and lack of adequate funding, could undermine effective implementation of future phases of the DIDC; calls on the Government of Sudan and the armed groups to ensure the necessary enabling environment; and requests UNAMID to continue to support, monitor and report on the development of the DIDC and the overall environment for it;

11. Calls for an urgent end to inter-tribal clashes, criminality and banditry that affect civilians; further calls for reconciliation and dialogue; and requests UNAMID to continue to support local conflict resolution mechanisms, including with civil society mechanisms;

12. *Expresses* deep concern over the proliferation of arms, in particular small arms and light weapons and requests UNAMID to continue to cooperate in this context with the Panel of Experts established by resolution 1591 (2005) in order to facilitate their work;

13. *Commends* UNAMID troop- and police-contributing countries; welcomes that some progress has been made in addressing contingent-owned equipment and self-sustainment shortfalls, but expresses concern that shortfalls remain; and calls for continued efforts by UNAMID, the Secretariat and troop- and police-contributing countries to address such shortfalls, including by providing appropriate training and resources to fulfil priority protection functions, especially in areas necessary for contingents' temporary deployment capability and ability to conduct long-range patrols;

14. *Strongly condemns* all attacks on UNAMID; underlines that any attack or threat of attack on UNAMID is unacceptable; demands that there be no recurrence of such attacks and that those responsible be held to account following prompt and thorough investigation; urges UNAMID to take all necessary measures within its rules of engagement to protect UN personnel and equipment; condemns the ongoing impunity for those who attack peacekeepers, and in this regard urges the Government of Sudan to do its utmost to bring all perpetrators of any such crimes to justice and to cooperate with UNAMID to this end;

15. *Reiterates* its deep concern that hindrances remain to UNAMID in the implementation of its mandate, including movement and access restrictions, caused by insecurity, acts of criminality and significant movement restrictions by Government forces, armed movements and militia groups; calls on all parties in Darfur to remove all obstacles to UNAMID's full and proper discharge of its mandate, including by ensuring its security and freedom of movement; and in this regard, demands that the Government of Sudan comply with the Status of Forces Agreement fully and without delay, particularly provisions relevant to the movement of patrols in conflict-affected areas and flight clearances, as well as those provisions relevant to the removal of obstacles to the use of UNAMID aerial assets, and the timely processing of UNAMID's equipment at the port of entry to Sudan;

16. *Demands* that all parties in Darfur immediately end attacks targeting civilians, peacekeepers and humanitarian personnel, and comply with their obligations under international human rights and humanitarian law; and affirms the Council's condemnation of all violations of international humanitarian law and violations and abuses of human rights;

17. *Expresses* serious concern at the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Darfur, and at the threats to and attacks on humanitarian personnel and facilities; expresses concern that access to some conflict areas where vulnerable populations reside remains restricted and that some conflict areas are inaccessible, including in North and Central Darfur and eastern Jebel Marra, due to insecurity, acts of criminality and movement restrictions by Government forces, armed movements and militia groups; welcomes that humanitarian organizations are able to deliver some aid to most people in need of assistance in Darfur; deplores the continued restrictions on humanitarian access in Darfur resulting from increased insecurity, attacks against humanitarian workers, denial of access by the parties to the conflict and bureaucratic impediments imposed by the Government of Sudan; further expresses concern over the insufficient availability of funding for humanitarian actors; stresses the need for the timely issuance of visas and travel permits for humanitarian organizations; and demands that the Government of Sudan, all militias, armed groups and all other stakeholders ensure the safe, timely and unhindered access of humanitarian organizations and relief personnel, and the delivery of humanitarian assistance to populations in need, in accordance with the relevant provisions of international law and United Nations guiding principles of humanitarian assistance, including humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence;

18. *Condemns* increased human rights violations and abuses in, and relating to, Darfur, including those involving extrajudicial killings, the excessive use of force, abduction of civilians, acts of sexual- and gender-based violence, violations and abuses against children, and arbitrary arrests and detentions; calls on the Government of Sudan to investigate allegations of such violations and abuses and bring those responsible to justice; expresses deep concern about the situation of all those so detained, including civil society members and IDPs; emphasizes the importance of ensuring, within its current mandate, UNAMID's and other relevant organizations' ability to monitor such cases; and in this regard urges the Government of Sudan to extend even greater cooperation with UNAMID towards fulfilment of this goal and to provide accountability and access to justice for victims; calls on the Government of Sudan fully to respect its obligations, including by fulfilling its commitment to lift the state of emergency in Darfur, releasing all political prisoners and allowing free expression;

19. *Requests* UNAMID to monitor, verify, and draw to the attention of the authorities abuses and violations of human rights, including those committed against women and children, and violations of international humanitarian law, and further requests enhanced, detailed, full and public reporting by the Secretary-General to the Council on this issue, as part of his regular 90-day reports;

20. *Requests* UNAMID to ensure that any support provided to non-United Nations security forces is provided in strict compliance with the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy on United Nations support to non-United Nations security forces (HRDDP), and requests the Secretary-General to include progress made in implementing the policy in his reports to the Security Council;

21. *Urges* close coordination among UN missions in the region, including UNAMID, the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) and the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), and requests the Secretary-General to ensure effective inter-mission cooperation;

22. *Emphasizes* the importance of cooperation and information-sharing between UNAMID, UNMISS, MONUSCO, MINUSCA and relevant regional and international partners in addressing the regional threat including of the Lord's Resistance Army, and recalls its encouragement to UNAMID, within existing capacities and consistent with its mandate, to cooperate and share information in this regard;

23. *Stresses* the importance of achieving dignified and durable solutions for refugees and internally displaced persons, and of ensuring their full participation in the planning and management of these solutions; demands that all parties to the conflict in Darfur create the conditions conducive to allowing the voluntary, informed, safe, dignified and sustainable return of refugees and internally displaced persons, or, where appropriate, their local integration; in this regard stresses the need for the establishment of a mechanism in order to verify the extent to which these returns are voluntary and informed in nature, and underlines the importance of addressing land issues for the realization of durable solutions in Darfur;

24. *Demands* that the parties to the conflict immediately cease all acts of sexual and gender-based violence and make and implement specific and time-bound commitments to combat sexual violence, in accordance with resolution 2106 (2013); urges the Government, with the support of the United Nations and African Union, to develop a structured framework through which conflict related sexual violence will be comprehensively addressed, and to allow access for service provision for sexual violence survivors; requests UNAMID to strengthen its reporting on sexual and gender-based violence and actions taken to combat it, including through the swift deployment of Women Protection Advisers; requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the relevant provisions of resolution 1325 (2000), and subsequent resolutions on women, peace and security, are implemented, including supporting the full and effective participation of women during all stages of peace processes, particularly in conflict resolution, post-conflict planning and peacebuilding, including women's civil society organizations, and to include information on this in his reporting to the Council; and further requests UNAMID to monitor and assess the implementation of these tasks and requests the Secretary-General to include information on this in his reporting to the Council;

25. *Demands* that the parties to the conflict immediately cease all violations and abuses against children, and develop and implement concrete and time-bound action plans to end and prevent the recruitment and use of children in violation of applicable international law, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure:

(a) continued monitoring and reporting of the situation of children in Darfur; and

(b) continued dialogue with the parties to the conflict towards the development and implementation of the aforementioned action plans, in accordance with resolution 1612 (2005) and subsequent resolutions on children and armed conflict;

26. *Underscores* the importance of regular review by the Security Council of each UN peacekeeping mission's progress in implementing its mandate, and recalls its request to the Secretary-General, in close consultation with the AU, and seeking perspectives from all relevant parties, to conduct an analysis of implementation of the review of UNAMID; in this regard, takes note of the Secretary-General's efforts

to make recommendations on the future of UNAMID, including its exit strategy, as requested by the Security Council in paragraph 7 of resolution 2173; concurs that UNAMID's long-term planning should be based upon progress towards the mission's benchmarks as set out in the Secretary-General's report of 16 October 2012 (S/2012/771) and subsequently refined in his report of 25 February 2014 (S/2014/138) and 15 April 2014 (S/2014/279) (Annex A); takes note that the Secretary-General, in his report of 26 May 2015 (S/2015/378), emphasizes that a political settlement in Darfur and direct talks between Government and the non-signatory armed movements, starting with a cessation of hostilities in Darfur, is essential to re-establishing peace in Darfur and is primary to the achievement of these benchmarks;

27. *Takes note* of the consultations between the UN, the AU and the Government of Sudan, notably in the framework of the Joint Working Group to develop an exit strategy in accordance with the mission's benchmarks and in response to paragraph 7 of resolution 2173; calls for early resumption of consultations between the AU, the UN and the Government of Sudan in this regard; looks forward to the Secretary-General's recommendations, including by building on any agreed recommendations of the Joint Working Group; and undertakes to consider the Secretary-General's recommendations in due course;

28. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Council every 90 days following adoption of this resolution on UNAMID, including:

(i) information on the political, humanitarian and security situation in Darfur, including detailed reporting on incidents of violence and attacks against civilians, by whomsoever perpetrated;

(ii) information on violations of the Status of Forces Agreement, including those involving attacks or threats of attack on UNAMID, as well as violations of international humanitarian law perpetrated by any party to the conflict;

(iii) developments and progress towards achievement of UNAMID's strategic priorities and benchmarks;

(iv) developments and progress in addressing the challenges facing UNAMID as identified in the review of UNAMID;

(v) and on the implementation of this resolution;

29. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

Annex A: UNAMID benchmarks as set out in Annex 1 of the Secretary-General report of 15 April 2014 (S/2014/279)

Benchmark 1: inclusive peace process through mediation between the Government and non-signatory armed movements on the basis of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur

Requirements for progress would include a commitment on the part of the Government of the Sudan and non-signatory movements to reach a comprehensive negotiated political settlement to the conflict and adhere to its full and timely implementation; and credible Darfur-based internal dialogue and consultations that seek to reflect the views of the civilian population, including women, on Darfur in the peace process.

Indicators

High-level mediation

- The Government and the non-signatory movements enter into direct negotiations brokered by the Joint African Union-United Nations Chief Mediator for Darfur over an all-inclusive comprehensive settlement to the Darfur conflict within the context of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur.
- The signatory parties, with the support of international partners, implement the provisions of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur, which remain essential in addressing the root causes of conflict in Darfur.
- The Government and the non-signatory movements conclude and observe a comprehensive and inclusive cessation of hostilities.
- The outcomes of the Darfur peace process are reflected in a national constitutional process supported by the African Union High-level Implementation Panel for the Sudan, as provided for in the framework for African Union and United Nations facilitation of the Darfur peace process.

Darfur-based internal dialogue and consultations;

- Darfur-based internal dialogue and consultations take place in an inclusive and transparent environment that ensures the proportional representation of Darfuris and respect for the human rights of participants, as monitored by African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID).
- The outcomes of the Darfur-based internal dialogue and consultations are widely disseminated and implemented in a manner that promotes and consolidates peace and stability in Darfur.
- A functioning Darfur Regional Authority that oversees the implementation of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur, in conjunction with the Government of the Sudan.

Benchmark 2: protection of civilians and unhindered humanitarian access and the safety and security of humanitarian personnel

Requirements for progress would include the demonstrated commitment of the parties to the conflict, including Government forces, non-signatory movements and other armed groups, to cease hostilities and respect and implement ceasefire and security arrangements; the demonstrated commitment of the parties to the conflict to implement measures to protect civilians (or promote/respect human rights); the

demonstrated commitment of the parties to the conflict to allow unrestricted humanitarian access; the willingness of local actors to facilitate the safe, voluntary and sustainable return, reintegration or resettlement of internally displaced persons and refugees; improvement of TCC/PCC performance and equipment; support by the international donor community for humanitarian activities and, where appropriate, early recovery and rehabilitation; the improved coordination between UNAMID and humanitarian actors with regard to the facilitation of the deli very of humanitarian assistance and the safety and security of humanitarian personnel; and the commitment of the Government of the Sudan at the national and local levels to improve the capacity of its security, judicial and penal institutions to promote and protect human rights.

Indicators

Protection of civilians from imminent threats of physical violence;

- Civilians facing imminent threats of physical violence are protected by UNAMID.
- Civilians at risk of physical attack, in particular women and children, carry out livelihood activities safely and securely under UNAMID protection.
- Civilians receive emergency medical assistance from UNAMID, including through evacuation to medical facilities, in extreme circumstances (i.e., when humanitarian actors are unable to assist).

Protective environment;

- Security and stability (as indicated by an absence of serious crime or violent conflict) for civilians within camps for internally displaced persons and temporary settlements.
- Security and stability (as indicated by an absence of serious crime or violent conflict) for civilians in areas outside of camps for internally displaced persons and temporary settlements, including in particular in areas adjacent to camps.
- Reduction in the number of violent crimes against civilians.
- Reduction in human rights violations, including incidents of sexual and gender-based violence, as recorded by UNAMID.
- Reduction in the recruitment of child soldiers by the parties to the conflict.
- Improved environment for the protection of civil and political rights, including through the development of sustainable foundations for professional, democratic policing and law enforcement.
- Trials monitored by UNAMID are fair and in accordance with international legal standards and practices.
- The prevalence of arms and armed actors is reduced through the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of combatants in accordance with the provisions of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur.
- Threats to civilians posed by unexploded ordnance are addressed through, inter alia, the safe disposal of such materials and through risk-awareness training.

Safe, timely and unhindered humanitarian access and safety and security for humanitarian personnel;

- Humanitarian actors requesting UNAMID protection and other support are able to conduct operations (e.g., inter alia aid delivery and distribution and needs assessments) in a safe, timely and unhindered manner.
- Humanitarian actors and their property are safe and secure, in particular when UNAMID protection is provided.
- Parties to the conflict honour their commitments and international obligations to combat all acts of sexual violence against women, men and children and put an end to the recruitment and use of child soldiers.

Benchmark 3: prevention or mitigation of community conflict through mediation and, in conjunction with the United Nations country team, measures to address its root causes

Requirements for progress would include willingness on the part of the authorities and traditional community leaders to play a constructive role in resolving intercommunal conflict peacefully; the provision of access to UNAMID to facilitate mediation efforts; strengthened traditional conflict resolution mechanisms and greater respect thereof; the inclusion of measures in reconciliation agreements to address the root causes of intercommunal conflict; a willingness on the part of the authorities and other parties to the conflict to fulfil their responsibilities in regard to preventing or resolving intercommunal clashes; and the provision of access to the United Nations Country Team to enable measures that address root causes related to natural resources, recovery and reconstruction.

Indicators

- Dialogue between pastoralist and agriculturalist communities over peaceful coexistence and shared access to natural resources, in particular prior to and during the migration season.
- Interventions by the authorities and traditional community mediators, facilitated by UNAMID, that prevent or resolve violent intercommunal conflict.
- Dialogue between conflicting parties over local settlements to violent intercommunal conflict.
- Conflicting parties enter into and adhere to local agreements that settle violent intercommunal conflict.
- Reduction in the number of incidents of and new displacement resulting from intercommunal conflict.
- Transitional justice mechanisms, including the National Human Rights Commission, the Special Court for Darfur and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, are established and operating in accordance with international human rights standards and best practice.
- Improved access to justice through the adoption of measures aimed at enhancing victims' rights to truth, justice and remedy.

United Nations S/2015/483

Security Council

Distr.: General
26 June 2015

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Letter dated 25 June 2015 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 18 June 2015 from the Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union, Smaïl Chergui, transmitted on behalf of the Chair of the African Union Commission, Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma (see annex).

The letter conveys the outcomes of the 515th meeting of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, on 13 June 2015, which examined the situations in Burundi and South Sudan. The communiqués adopted by the African Union Peace and Security Council on Burundi and South Sudan are also conveyed.

I should be grateful if you could bring the present letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **BAN** Ki-moon

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Annex to the letter dated 25 June 2015 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

Letter dated 18 June 2015 from the Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union addressed to the Secretary-General

On behalf of the Chair of the Commission of the African Union, Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, I am writing to bring to your attention the outcome of the 515th meeting of the African Union Peace and Security Council, which took place on 13 June 2015, on the margins of the ordinary sessions of the African Union policy organs in Johannesburg, South Africa. The Peace and Security Council addressed the situations in Burundi and South Sudan, which are of utmost concern for the East Africa region, as well as for the African Union and the United Nations.

Regarding Burundi, the Peace and Security Council reaffirmed the conviction of the African Union that only dialogue and consensus, based on respect for the Arusha Agreement and the Constitution of Burundi, would make it possible to find a lasting political solution to the current crisis, and, once again, called upon all Burundian actors to show restraint and to place the national interest above all other considerations. The Peace and Security Council agreed on a set of measures aimed at expediting the search for a solution to the crisis, as captured in paragraph 10 of the communiqué on Burundi (see enclosure 1). The Peace and Security Council called on the United Nations Security Council to endorse the decisions reached.

On South Sudan, the Peace and Security Council, having expressed deep concern at the prevailing situation on the ground, reiterated its appreciation for the Intergovernmental Authority on Development-led efforts and welcomed the steps taken by the African Union to enhance its support to the mediation, including the establishment of the high-level ad hoc Committee of Heads of State and Government and the appointment of former President Alpha Oumar Konaré as the African Union High Representative for South Sudan. In paragraph 11 of the communiqué on South Sudan (see enclosure 2), the Peace and Security Council called for urgent steps towards the implementation of Security Council resolution 2206 (2015) of 3 March 2015 and reaffirmed all other steps agreed upon in its press statement on South Sudan, adopted on 22 May 2015.

I transmit herewith the communiqués adopted by the Peace and Security Council on both Burundi and South Sudan. I would be most grateful if you could kindly share them with the members of the Security Council.

It is needless to stress the critical importance of continued collaboration and coordination between the African Union and the United Nations in addressing the challenges at hand. I would like to reiterate the African Union's commitment to continue to work closely with the United Nations towards finding early solutions to the prevailing situations in Burundi and in South Sudan, as part of the strong African Union-United Nations partnership in the area of peace and security in Africa and in support of the regional efforts led, respectively, by the East African Community and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development.

(*Signed*) Smaïl **Chergui**
Commissioner, Peace and Security

Enclosure 1

Communiqué concerning the situation in Burundi

[Original: English and French]

The Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU), at its 515th meeting held on 13 June 2015, at the level of Heads of State and Government, adopted the following decision on the situation in Burundi:

Council,

1. **Takes note** of the report of the Chairperson of the Commission on the situation in Burundi [PSC/AHG/3(DXV)]. Council **also takes note** of the statement made by the Minister of External Relations and International Cooperation of the Republic of Burundi, as well as of the interventions by President Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete of the United Republic of Tanzania, in his capacity as Chairman of the East African Community (EAC), and the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations (UN);

2. **Recalls** its earlier communiqués and press statements on the situation in Burundi, including communiqué PSC/PR/COMM(DVII), adopted at its 507th meeting held on 14 May 2015, as well as the press releases and statements by the Chairperson of the Commission. Council **reaffirms** the determination of the AU to fully assume the responsibilities arising from its role as Guarantor of the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement in Burundi of August 2000, concluded after sustained efforts by the region and Africa as a whole, with the support of the international community;

3. **Reiterates its deep appreciation** to the EAC and the leaders of the region for their commitment and sustained efforts to facilitate the search for a lasting political solution to the serious crisis facing Burundi. Council **pays tribute** to the Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General for the Great Lakes region, Said Djinnit, for his commitment and the outstanding efforts that he deployed for the resolution of this crisis. Council **welcomes** the contribution made by the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) and the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), including the communiqués issued at the end of their Summits held in Luanda, Angola, and in N'Djamena, Chad, on 18 and 25 May 2015, respectively;

4. **Commends** the Chairperson of the Commission for her commitment and determination to facilitate a political solution to the crisis in Burundi, as well as for all the initiatives she has taken to that end;

5. **Expresses its deep concern** about the continuing stalemate in Burundi, despite the sustained efforts by the EAC, the ICGLR, the AU and the UN, with the support of bilateral and multilateral partners. Council **notes with disappointment** that the political dialogue initiated by the UN Special Envoy for the Great Lakes region, with the participation of the EAC, the ICGLR and the AU, has not produced the expected results. Council **stresses** that the current situation could jeopardize the important gains recorded following the signing of the Arusha Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in Burundi and the Global Ceasefire Agreement of 2003, and affect the stability of the region;

6. **Reaffirms** the AU's conviction that only dialogue and consensus, based on the respect of the Arusha Agreement and the Constitution of Burundi, will make it possible to find a lasting political solution, ensuring the preservation and consolidation of peace, as well as the strengthening of democracy and the rule of law. Council **once again calls upon** all the Burundian actors to show restraint and to place the national interest above all other considerations;

7. **Reiterates its concern** about the difficult situation of the Burundian refugees who fled their country towards the neighbouring States, **commends** the host countries (Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Tanzania), as well as the humanitarian agencies, for their support to the concerned populations, and **calls upon** the international community to provide the necessary humanitarian assistance. Council **urges** the Government of Burundi to create the necessary conditions for their early return;

8. **Stresses** the imperative need for respect for human rights and public freedoms, as guaranteed by the Constitution of Burundi. Council **reiterates** the strong condemnation by the AU of all acts of violence and human rights abuses;

9. **Reiterates its support** to the sustained efforts being deployed by the EAC and **emphasizes** the relevance of the measures agreed upon by the Summits held in Dar-es-Salaam, on 13 and 31 May 2015, including the call for the postponement of the elections and the immediate cessation of violence, the disarmament of youth groups affiliated to political parties, the initiation of a dialogue among the Burundian stakeholders, as well as the commitment of the region not to standby in case the situation deteriorates, which provide a framework for a political and consensual solution to the crisis;

10. **Decides**, as a follow-up to its earlier communiqués and press statements and in support of the decisions of the EAC, that the following measures shall be taken to expedite the search for a consensual political solution to the crisis in Burundi:

(i) the resumption of dialogue between all the Burundian parties within one week following the adoption of the present communiqué, under the facilitation of the AU, the UN, the EAC and the ICGLR, with the support of the concerned members of the international community. Council **invites** the Chairperson of the Commission to immediately initiate the necessary consultations for the operationalization of this international facilitation, under the auspices of the Chair of the EAC;

(ii) the inter-Burundian dialogue, building on the work already done with the facilitation of the UN, shall focus on the measures to be taken to create conditions conducive to the organization of free, fair, transparent and credible elections, as well as on all the matters on which the parties disagree;

(iii) the date of the election shall be set by consensus between the Burundian parties, in the spirit of the EAC communiqués of 31 May 2015 requesting a postponement of the elections, and on the basis of a technical assessment to be undertaken by the UN;

(iv) the immediate deployment of AU human rights observers and other civilian personnel, as agreed in communiqué PSC/PR/COMM(DVII).

Council **reiterates its call** to the Government of Burundi to extend its full cooperation to this process;

(v) the deployment of AU military experts, both from the region and other regions of the continent, in collaboration with the Government and other concerned actors, to verify the process of disarming the militias and other armed groups. This group of experts, whose strength shall be determined by the Chairperson of the Commission, in consultation with the region, will submit regular reports on the implementation of the disarmament process; and

(vi) the deployment of an AU election observer mission, if conditions for the organization of free, fair, transparent and credible elections, in accordance with the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance, are met;

11. **Looks forward** to the visit to Burundi of the EAC ministerial delegation, in pursuance of the communiqué of the Dar-es-Salaam Summit of 31 May 2015. Council **decides** to dispatch, by the first week of July 2015, a ministerial delegation including the Commission, to assess the implementation status of the decisions contained in paragraph 10 above and enable it to take the decisions that may be required, including determining the way forward, should the parties not reach an agreement within a period of two weeks after the launching of the dialogue;

12. **Reaffirms** its determination to take, in due course, and with the support of the UN Security Council, all the necessary measures against the Burundian stakeholders whose action may lead to the perpetuation of violence and would impede the search for a political solution;

13. **Welcomes** the measures taken by the Chairperson of the Commission to strengthen the AU Liaison Office in Bujumbura, as a follow-up to the relevant provisions of communiqué PSC/PR/COMM(DVII). Council **welcomes** the appointment of Professor Ibrahima Fall, as the new Special Representative of the Chairperson of the Commission for the Great Lakes region and Head of the AU Liaison Office in Bujumbura. Council **assures** him of its full support in the fulfilment of his mandate;

14. **Requests** the Chairperson of the Commission to formally transmit the present communiqué to the Government of Burundi and to the other concerned actors. Council **also requests** her to transmit this communiqué to all concerned regional organizations, to the UN Secretary-General and, through him, to the UN Security Council, as well as to the European Union (EU), to mobilize their support. In particular, Council **requests** the UN Security Council to endorse the present communiqué;

15. **Invites** the Chairperson of the Commission to keep Council regularly informed of the evolution of the situation to enable it to take the necessary measures;

16. **Decides** to remain actively seized of the matter.

Enclosure 2

Communiqué concerning the situation in South Sudan

[Original: English and French]

The Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU), at its 515th meeting held in Johannesburg, South Africa, on 13 June 2015, at the level of Heads of State and Government, adopted the following decision on the situation in South Sudan:

Council,

1. **Takes note** of the report of the Chairperson of the Commission on the situation in South Sudan [PSC/AHG/2(DXV)], as well as of the update provided by the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn of Ethiopia, on the IGAD-led mediation efforts and the statement by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of South Sudan. Council **also takes note** of the statement made by the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations (UN);

2. **Reaffirms** all its earlier communiqués and press statements on the situation in South Sudan, including communiqué PSC/AHG/COMM.1 (CDLXXXIV) adopted at its 484th meeting held at the level of Heads of State and Government in Addis Ababa, on 29 January 2015; press statement PSC/PR/BR.1 (CDXCIV), adopted at its 494th meeting held in Addis Ababa, on 24 March 2015; and press statement PSC/PR/BR.(DX), adopted at its 510th meeting, held in Swakopmund, Namibia, on 22 May 2015;

3. **Reiterates the AU's deep concern** at the prevailing situation on the ground, marked by continued fighting and attacks against civilians, as well as by a dire humanitarian crisis, including forced displacement, acute food insecurity, access restrictions and other impediments to humanitarian assistance;

4. **Strongly condemns** all the ceasefire violations committed by the parties, as reported by the IGAD Monitoring and Verification Mechanism (MVM), as well as the attacks and other egregious acts of violence and abuses of human rights against civilians, including during the fighting in Upper Nile and Unity States in the months of April and May 2015. Council **further condemns in the strongest terms** the attacks and other acts of violence and harassment targeting the humanitarian agencies and their personnel and assets. Council **commends** the humanitarian agencies for their continued assistance to the affected populations and, once again, **urges** all concerned actors to fully cooperate with them;

5. **Also strongly condemns** all restrictions and other acts obstructing the implementation of the mandates of the MVM and the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS). Council **reiterates its full support** to the MVM and UNMISS, and **demands** that the belligerents extend full cooperation to them to facilitate the discharge of their respective mandates;

6. **Commends** the Chairperson of IGAD and the other leaders of the region, as well as the Team of IGAD Special Envoys, for their sustained efforts in facilitating a negotiated political solution to the conflict in South Sudan;

7. **Notes with disappointment** the continued failure and unwillingness of the leaders of the warring parties to make a compromise and reach an agreement to end

the conflict in their country and the untold suffering inflicted on their own people. Council **stresses** that the continuation of hostilities, in total disregard of the suffering of the people, is tantamount to the abdication by the South Sudanese leaders of their most fundamental responsibility to their own people;

8. **Welcomes** the steps taken towards the implementation of the Arusha Agreement of 21 January 2015, and **notes** the efforts of the Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) of Tanzania and the African National Congress (ANC) of South Africa in this regard, aimed at reuniting the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) and the subsequent return of the former political detainees. Council **encourages** all parties, and in particular the former detainees, to fully play the role expected of them in fostering dialogue and understanding among the SPLM leaders, in the overall interest of their country and people, as part of the search for peace, security and reconciliation in South Sudan;

9. **Welcomes** the convening of the inaugural meeting of the AU High-Level *ad hoc* Committee for South Sudan, established pursuant to communiqué PSC/PR/COMM(CDLXXIV) adopted at its 474th meeting held on 5 December 2014, as well as of the consultative meeting that it held with the IGAD Heads of State and Government, in Johannesburg, on 13 June 2015. Council **commends** the members of the *ad hoc* Committee for the commitment they have shown in accepting this responsibility and **looks forward** to their active contribution to the search for peace in South Sudan, in close coordination with IGAD. Council **notes with satisfaction** that the *ad hoc* Committee has agreed on the key elements of its work programme for the coming weeks;

10. **Further welcomes** the appointment, by the Chairperson of the Commission, of former President of Mali, Alpha Oumar Konaré, as the AU High Representative for South Sudan. Council **commends** former President Konaré for accepting this responsibility and **assures him** of its full support in the discharge of his mandate, in coordination with the *ad hoc* Committee;

11. **Recalls** its previous pronouncements on the need to take the necessary measures, in coordination with IGAD, against any party that fails to honour its commitments and continues to undermine the search for a negotiated solution to the conflict, in line with UN Security Council resolution 2206 (2015) of 3 March 2015. In this regard, Council **calls for** urgent steps by the Sanctions Committee, established pursuant to resolution 2206 (2015), to designate individuals and entities subject to the measures provided for therein, and **reaffirms** all the other steps agreed upon in press statement PSC/PR/BR.(DX). Council **requests** the Chairperson of the Commission to take the necessary follow-up measures, including formally communicating this decision to the UN Secretary-General and, through him, to the UN Security Council;

12. **Decides** to convene a ministerial-level meeting by mid-July 2015, to consider the report of the AU Commission of Inquiry established pursuant to communiqué PSC/AHG/COMM.1 (CDLXXXIV) adopted at its 484th meeting, held in Banjul, the Gambia, on 30 December 2013, to investigate human rights violations and other abuses committed during the armed conflict in South Sudan and make recommendations on the best way and means to ensure accountability, reconciliation and healing among all South Sudanese communities;

13. **Reiterates** its call to AU member States and the larger international community to provide the necessary financial resources to meet the humanitarian needs in South Sudan, noting that less than 15% of the humanitarian response plan is funded;

14. **Decides** to remain actively seized of the matter.

United Nations S/2015/484

Security Council

Distr.: General
26 June 2015

Original: English

Letter dated 25 June 2015 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

With reference to the latest version of the draft resolution for the renewal of the mandate of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID), which is now under the silence procedure, I would once again like to draw attention to the fact that none of our reservations and concerns stated in our letter dated 19 June 2015 (S/2015/464) were taken into consideration. The draft remained as it was, containing the same negative paragraphs and the controversial annex, which was attached for the first time in total divergence from all the previous resolutions. In this regard, we refer to the unacceptable merging of the mandates and duties of the African Union-United Nations Joint Special Representative for Darfur, the Special Envoy for the Sudan and South Sudan and the African Union High-level Implementation Panel, as contained in operative paragraph 6, while there was agreed language in operative paragraph 3 of resolution 2173 (2014) addressing this issue. In addition, the draft still contains paragraphs that contradict the facts and realities on the ground as well as the reports of the Secretary-General with regard to the so-called continued denial of access, as stated in the twelfth preambular paragraph.

Likewise, the language contained in operative paragraphs 24 and 25 regarding the exit strategy is totally undermining the role of the joint working group entrusted with the submission of recommendations to that end, backtracking on the provisions of operative paragraph 7 of resolution 2173 (2014) by which the Council extended the mandate of UNAMID. Similarly, the unaccepted language of the seventh preambular paragraph remained as it was, despite the fact that the Secretary-General referred in his report to the so-called information collected by UNAMID regarding two air-delivered cluster bombs in Kirigiyati as unverified information pending further investigation. Therefore, it is totally unacceptable to accommodate such a paragraph in the draft.

Having brought these reservations and concerns to your kind attention, I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Hassan Hamid **Hassan**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

15-10649 (E) 300615

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United Nations S/2015/485

Security Council

Distr.: General
26 June 2015

Original: English

Letter dated 26 June 2015 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the twenty-first monthly report of the Director-General of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), submitted pursuant to paragraph 12 of Security Council resolution 2118 (2013) (see annex). The report covers the period from 22 May to 22 June 2015.

With respect to the destruction of the 12 chemical weapons production facilities, I note that the explosives required to destroy the hangars are now expected to arrive in the Syrian Arab Republic by the end of June. I am pleased to learn that sufficient access to one additional hangar has permitted the completion of drilling operations. As a result, six of the seven hangars are now ready to receive the explosives. The seventh, as before, remains inaccessible owing to security considerations.

The outstanding issues relating to the initial declaration of the Syrian Arab Republic are the focus of continuing activities by the OPCW Declaration Assessment Team, and the resolution of those issues depends upon the ongoing cooperation between OPCW and the Syrian authorities. I take note of the fact that the samples taken during the eighth and ninth visits of the Team to the Syrian Arab Republic are undergoing laboratory analysis, and I look forward to learning of the results of that analysis. The Team is now planning its tenth visit in order to continue its work.

While all of the above activities are continuing, however, so too are the allegations of the use of toxic chemicals as weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic. In my letter to the Director-General of OPCW dated 18 May 2015, I shared my deep concern at those continuing and disturbing allegations. I also reaffirmed the willingness of the United Nations to provide assistance to OPCW, as required. I welcome the safe return of the OPCW fact-finding mission team that spent two weeks in the Syrian Arab Republic to pursue information provided by the Government of that country in December 2014. Likewise, I welcome the efforts of the other OPCW fact-finding mission team that is investigating allegations of the use of toxic chemicals in Idlib province through the collection of all available information, including that gathered during its first deployment.

The continuing allegations of the use of toxic chemicals as weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic serve as a powerful and shameful reminder that such weapons have not yet been consigned to history. There must be no doubt as to the absolute

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unacceptability of such weapons and the need for those responsible for their use to be held accountable.

I would be grateful if you could urgently bring the present letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **BAN** Ki-moon

Annex

I have the honour to transmit to you my report entitled "Progress in the elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme", prepared in accordance with the relevant provisions contained in Executive Council decision EC-M-33/DEC.1 of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and in Security Council resolution 2118 (2013), both dated 27 September 2013, for transmission to the Council. My report covers the period from 22 May to 22 June 2015 and the reporting requirements of Executive Council decision EC-M-34/DEC.1, dated 15 November 2013.

(*Signed*) Ahmet **Üzümcü**

Enclosure

Note by the Director-General of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

Progress in the elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme

1. In accordance with subparagraph 2(f) of the decision by the Executive Council (hereinafter "the Council") at its Thirty-Third Meeting (EC-M-33/DEC.1, dated 27 September 2013), the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter "the Secretariat") is to report to the Council on a monthly basis regarding the implementation of that decision. In accordance with paragraph 12 of United Nations Security Council resolution 2118 (2013), the report by the Secretariat is also to be submitted to the Security Council through the Secretary-General.

2. The Council, at its Thirty-Fourth Meeting, adopted a decision entitled "Detailed Requirements for the Destruction of Syrian Chemical Weapons and Syrian Chemical Weapons Production Facilities" (EC-M-34/DEC.1, dated 15 November 2013). In paragraph 22 of that decision, the Council decided that the Secretariat should report on its implementation "in conjunction with its reporting required by subparagraph 2(f) of Council decision EC-M-33/DEC.1".

3. The Council, at its Forty-Eighth Meeting, also adopted a decision entitled "Reports of the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission in Syria" (EC-M-48/DEC.1, dated 4 February 2015).

4. This, the twenty-first monthly report, is therefore submitted in accordance with the aforementioned Council decisions, and includes information relevant to the period from 22 May to 22 June 2015.

Progress achieved by the Syrian Arab Republic in meeting the requirements of EC-M-33/DEC.1 and EC-M-34/DEC.1

5. Progress within the reporting period by the Syrian Arab Republic is as follows:

(a) With respect to the 12 chemical weapons production facilities (CWPFs) (seven aircraft hangars and five underground structures) in the Syrian Arab Republic, since the last report, brief periods of stable security conditions have allowed the completion of drilling operations at one hangar site and the near completion of destruction activities at one underground structure. As such, six hangars are now ready to accommodate explosives, and the Secretariat has verified the destruction of four underground structures, as previously reported. Explosives are now expected to arrive before the end of June 2015. Severe security conditions continue to preclude safe access to one hangar;

(b) On 15 June 2015, the Syrian Arab Republic submitted to the Council its nineteenth monthly report (EC-79/P/NAT.3, dated 15 June 2015) regarding activities on its territory related to the destruction of its chemical weapons and CWPFs, as required by paragraph 19 of EC-M-34/DEC.1;

(c) The Syrian authorities have continued to extend the necessary cooperation in accordance with the implementation of subparagraph 1(e) of EC-M-

33/DEC.1 and paragraph 7 of United Nations Security Council resolution 2118 (2013).

Progress in the elimination of Syrian chemical weapons by States Parties hosting destruction activities

6. As reported previously, all declared chemicals have been removed from the territory of the Syrian Arab Republic, and all declared stocks of the Category 1 chemicals have been destroyed. A total of 93.7% of the Category 2 chemicals has now been destroyed, representing a combined total of 98.8% of all chemical weapons declared by the Syrian Arab Republic, including the isopropanol previously destroyed in the Syrian Arab Republic. The status of the destruction of the remaining Category 2 chemical (hydrogen fluoride (HF)) and effluents is as follows:

(a) Veolia ES Technical Solutions, LLC in the United States of America has finalised its arrangements to safely process the corroded HF cylinders, and is expected to restart its activities soon. As reported previously, a total of 48.7% of the HF has already been destroyed;

(b) As Ekokem in Finland has now completed the destruction of DF effluent, and as GEKA had already completed the destruction of HD effluent, as previously reported, all effluent that was produced by the neutralisation process on board the United States vessel MV Cape Ray has been destroyed.

7. The Secretariat will continue to brief States Parties in The Hague on the destruction activities relating to the remaining HF cylinders.

Activities carried out by the Secretariat with respect to the Syrian Arab Republic

8. In the context of the OPCW Mission in the Syrian Arab Republic, cooperation with the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) has continued and seven OPCW staff members were deployed as part of that Mission as at the cut-off date of this report. Ms. Grete Faremo, Executive Director of UNOPS, along with her colleagues in charge of the Mission, visited the OPCW Headquarters on 18 June 2015 and met with the Director-General and other OPCW staff dealing with the Mission. The two sides discussed the ongoing cooperation between the OPCW and UNOPS in the Syrian Arab Republic on activities related to the destruction of the 12 former CWPFs, as well as other operations carried out by the Mission.

9. The Director-General has continued to communicate with senior representatives of the States Parties hosting a destruction facility or providing assistance with the destruction of Syrian chemical weapons, and with senior officials of the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic. As requested by the Council at its Seventy-Fifth Session (paragraph 7.12 of EC-75/2, dated 7 March 2014), the Secretariat, on behalf of the Director-General, has continued to brief States Parties in The Hague on its activities.

10. The Secretariat and the Syrian authorities have continued to cooperate on outstanding issues regarding the Syrian initial declaration, as encouraged by the Council at its Seventy-Sixth Session (paragraph 6.17 of EC-76/6, dated 11 July 2014). The Declaration Assessment Team (DAT) continued interviews, site visits, and technical discussions on issues still requiring clarification with the Syrian authorities in the course of its ninth mission, which was conducted from 17 to

29 May 2015. The laboratory analysis of the samples taken at three sites visited during the ninth mission, and the samples taken at three locations during the DAT's eighth mission, is in progress. The Secretariat is expecting to receive the results within a few weeks. The DAT is preparing its fifth status report, which is to be tabled at the Seventy-Ninth Session of the Council, to be held from 7 to 10 July 2015. The DAT's next mission is planned for 19 July to 1 August 2015.

11. Regarding the implementation of additional special monitoring measures in accordance with Notes EC-M-43/DG.1/Rev.1 (dated 21 July 2014) and EC-M-40/DG.2/Add.1 (dated 20 July 2014), the special monitoring system equipment was cleared by the Syrian customs authorities, and the contractor has begun installation of the equipment at two of the four sites under the supervision of OPCW inspectors.

12. Although not part of the Syrian chemical weapons programme, the Secretariat verified on 21 May 2015 the destruction of two items declared by the Syrian Arab Republic as abandoned chemical weapons in accordance with Council decision EC-78/DEC.9 (dated 19 March 2015).

Supplementary resources

13. The total contributions of EUR 50.3 million in the Syria Trust Fund for the Destruction of Chemical Weapons and the contributors thereto remained unchanged from the previous report.

Activities carried out with respect to the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission in Syria

14. Following the information provided by the Syrian Arab Republic in December 2014 alleging a number of incidents of use of toxic chemicals for hostile purposes, the Director-General had offered to investigate these allegations. Final confirmation from the Syrian Arab Republic that the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission (FFM) could undertake a visit to Damascus was received on 21 May 2015, and an FFM team was immediately despatched. This team, and another that conducted work in the context of the recent allegations of the use of toxic chemicals in the Idlib province of the Syrian Arab Republic, are now analysing the information collected from their first deployments. On 24 June 2015, the two FFM teams will brief States Parties on their activities, which included conducting numerous interviews and collecting other relevant information and evidence.

15. The United Nations Secretary-General, in a letter received by the OPCW on 27 May 2015, noted his deep concern over all recent allegations of use of toxic chemicals in the Syria Arab Republic, and confirmed the willingness of the United Nations to provide assistance in the framework of ongoing cooperation constituted by the relationship agreement between the United Nations and the OPCW.

Conclusion

16. The main focus of the future activities of the OPCW Mission in the Syrian Arab Republic will continue to be on the destruction of the seven remaining CWPFs and on installing and operationalising the special remote monitoring system in the underground structures. The DAT and the FFM will also continue their work in the Syrian Arab Republic.

United Nations S/2015/486

Security Council

Distr.: General
26 June 2015

Original: English

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to paragraph 43 of Security Council resolution 2211 (2015). It covers major developments in the Democratic Republic of the Congo since my report of 10 March 2015 (S/2015/172), including with regard to the situation on the ground and progress made by the country in the implementation of its commitments under the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Region; the electoral process; and progress made by the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) in the implementation of its mandate, including an assessment of the outcomes of the strategic dialogue with the Congolese authorities on the exit strategy of MONUSCO.

II. Major developments

A. Political developments

2. The political situation remained tense in the context of the electoral process. As outlined in my previous report, the electoral calendar published by the national independent electoral commission was criticized by some political parties from the opposition, which questioned its feasibility. Their concerns were echoed by some political actors from the ruling coalition. On 5 March, a group of seven political parties from the presidential majority, referred to as the "G7", reportedly addressed a letter to the President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Joseph Kabila, in which it raised concerns about a number of issues relating to the electoral and decentralization processes and called for an internal debate. The concerns were discussed in the National Assembly on 17 and 18 April, but did not result in any formal decisions or recommendations to the Government.

3. On 2 May, at the request of the President, the General Administrator of the National Intelligence Agency, Kalev Mutond, initiated consultations with national stakeholders from across the political spectrum with the aim of initiating a national dialogue. On 14 May, during a meeting with the presidential majority, the President reportedly clarified that the objectives of the dialogue were the consolidation of

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peace and security; continued economic stability; and national unity during the electoral period. Many opposition political parties, including the Union pour la nation congolaise (UNC) and the Mouvement de libération du Congo (MLC), declined to participate in the dialogue, which in their view risked delaying the 2016 presidential and legislative elections. There were divergent views within the Union pour la démocratie et le progrès social (UDPS) on whether to participate in the dialogue. On 1 June, however, the party announced that it would not take part, since one of the preconditions for its participation had not been met, namely, the involvement of an international mediator such as my Special Representative for the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

4. On 1 June, the President launched consultations with a range of stakeholders and held a series of meetings with religious leaders. In a statement issued on the same day, the Conférence épiscopale nationale du Congo welcomed the President's initiative for dialogue and stressed the need to reach consensus with regard to the electoral calendar while ensuring respect for the Constitution. On 2 June, the archbishop of Kinshasa, Laurent Monsengwo Pasinya, echoed the need to respect the constitutional timelines for the elections and to avoid any transitional government arrangement. On 11 June, the President briefed the diplomatic corps in Kinshasa, including my Special Representative, on his consultations with national stakeholders regarding the electoral process.

5. In March, the alleged presence of a mass grave in Maluku commune (Kinshasa) raised concerns among civil society and opposition leaders, as well as human rights observers. On 12 April, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior, Evariste Boshab, and the Minister of Justice, Alexis Tambwe Mwamba, confirmed that 421 bodies, including those of destitute or abandoned persons and unborn babies, had been buried in a mass grave. The Government opened a judicial investigation into the mass grave. Judicial and administrative investigations into the case are being conducted by the Congolese authorities with the support of MONUSCO. Concerns persist, however, that the bodies buried in Maluku may be of individuals killed during "Operation Likofi" from November 2013 to February 2014 or of individuals killed during the demonstrations of January 2015, whose bodies were taken away from the morgues of hospitals in Kinshasa with the intention of dissimulating the killings.

6. The national independent electoral commission continued preparations for the local and provincial elections scheduled for 25 October. The main activities included the registration of candidates for the provincial elections and the refinement of the list of electoral districts to be included in the draft law on the allocation of seats for elected local and municipal bodies. As at 9 June, a total of 6,287 applications had been submitted to the commission, including 5,720 from political parties, 85 from coalitions and 482 from independent candidates. A total of 19,669 candidates have been registered for the provincial elections, 12 per cent of whom are women.

7. Delays were registered by the national independent electoral commission in the completion of key tasks in the electoral calendar. For example, the Government's general disbursement plan for the electoral process, which was to be updated by 22 February, remains under discussion by the Government. The cost of the electoral process is now estimated by the Government at $900 million (down from $1.1 billion), with most of it to be funded by the State treasury. On 14 May,

however, the commission received $20 million from the Government (of the $43 million expected to have been disbursed in March). The procurement centre, which was to commence operations on 1 March, has not yet been established by the Government. The draft law on the allocation of seats for the elected local bodies based on the number of voters per electoral district, which had been expected to be promulgated by 20 April, was only submitted to the National Assembly on 5 June. On 16 June, the National Assembly rejected the draft law on the grounds that its provisions violated the Constitution by excluding some 8 million voters who had reached the age of civil majority since the 2011 national elections.

8. On 4 April, the Constitutional Court, provided for in the 2006 Constitution, was installed, with the swearing-in of its nine members. The installation of the Constitutional Court is an important step as it is the body mandated to adjudicate on any dispute relating to the upcoming presidential and legislative elections. The nine members of the National Human Rights Commission, including four women, were appointed by the National Assembly on 1 April and confirmed by presidential decree. On 24 April, the Commission, with the support of MONUSCO, adopted its internal rules and regulations, which are to be submitted to the Constitutional Court for review.

B. Progress in the implementation of national commitments under the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Region

9. On 12 May, the mandate of the National Oversight Mechanism was extended for an additional year by presidential decree. On 3 and 4 June, the Mechanism and the Ministry of Planning convened a high-level seminar in Kinshasa aimed at fostering high-level policy dialogue between the Government and development partners, strengthening ownership by national authorities and identifying priority actions and specific measures for the timely and effective implementation of national commitments under the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework. MONUSCO and the Office of my Special Representative for the Great Lakes Region supported and took part in the initiative.

Decentralization

10. Further progress was made in the decentralization process following the promulgation of legislation redefining the provincial boundaries and subdividing the 11 provinces into 26 decentralized territorial entities, as provided for in the 2006 Constitution. On 13 April, the Prime Minister, Augustin Matata Ponyo, signed two decrees establishing the commissions tasked with the creation of new provinces and appointing their members. The commissions were to initiate the administrative establishment of the new provinces within 30 days and complete the task within 120 days. There were delays, however, in the deployment of the members of the commissions to their respective provinces owing to financial constraints. On 15 June, the Parliament adopted the draft law on the Caisse nationale de péréquation, the establishment of which will be an important step in the decentralization process. It was established in the 2006 Constitution that the provinces would receive 40 per cent of tax revenues. Of that, they would allocate 10 per cent to the Caisse nationale de péréquation and 40 per cent to the

decentralized territorial entities. The Caisse nationale de péréquation is expected to play an important role in the establishment of the new provinces, including by ensuring public investment in development programmes and a more equitable distribution of the national wealth.

11. The decision of the Government to advance the process of establishing the new provinces within 120 days, while at the same time organizing local and provincial elections, raised some concern with regard to its capacity to establish, simultaneously with the ongoing electoral process, the new territorial entities within the foreseen timelines and to fund them adequately. The decentralization process continued to accentuate divisions between its supporters and opponents at the provincial level, while increasing tensions among communities in certain areas.

C. Security situation in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo and operations against armed groups by national security forces

12. In North Kivu, the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) continued to pose a significant threat to security in Beni, with increasingly deadly attacks against the civilian population, the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (Forces armées de la République démocratique du Congo — FARDC) and MONUSCO. The FARDC-led Operation Sukola I registered some progress, notably the clearing of one of the main ADF camps with MONUSCO support, during which the newly appointed operations commander of ADF was killed. Since 1 April, a total of five ADF elements have been killed and five others captured by FARDC. However, ADF maintains its destructive capacity in spite of those gains and the arrest in the United Republic of Tanzania on 20 April of its leader, Jamil Mukulu. It continues to operate in small groups, attacking defenceless civilians to instil fear while perpetuating insecurity and diverting the operational focus of FARDC and MONUSCO. Between 1 April and 2 June, ADF reportedly killed 33 civilians, bringing the total number of civilians killed since October 2014 to 347. It carried out at least four ambushes, which resulted in the killing of five FARDC soldiers. On 4 May, alleged ADF elements fired on a MONUSCO helicopter carrying the Force Commander, which was forced to make an emergency landing. On 5 May, a group of suspected ADF elements ambushed a MONUSCO patrol between Oicha and Eringeti, killing two Tanzanian peacekeepers and injuring 13 others. Two civilians were also killed.

13. On 8 April, FARDC announced that during Operation Sukola II, 14 localities in or around Virunga National Park (North Kivu) and 21 localities in South Kivu formerly occupied by the Forces démocratiques pour la libération du Rwanda (FDLR) had been liberated and that 162 FDLR elements had been captured, 62 had surrendered and 13 had been killed. MONUSCO has not been able to verify those figures. Despite progress in dislodging FDLR from some of its strongholds, the command and control structures of the group remain largely intact, since operations have not yet moved to the areas in North Kivu in which its leadership is concentrated. In the area of operations, FDLR has generally dispersed into small groups to avoid confrontation. In both North Kivu and South Kivu, FDLR has reportedly been returning to previously cleared areas as FARDC is finding it increasingly difficult to hold the ground effectively and continue operations at the same time. In North Kivu, FDLR has been observed returning to the areas north-east of Nyanzale, on the edge of Virunga National Park, and around Tongo and Mweso

in Rutshuru territory. In South Kivu, FDLR elements have allegedly begun to return to mining areas in Mwenga territory and have resumed illegal taxation.

14. FDLR continued to be active across both provinces and to commit human rights abuses against the civilian population. In North Kivu, FDLR remained active in Lubero, Masisi, Nyiragongo and Rutshuru territories with an increase in acts of banditry and extortion, especially as their revenue-generating activities in Virunga National Park had been disrupted by the operations. On 26 May, between 30 and 50 houses in Kiseguru village were systematically looted by suspected FDLR elements. Small groups of FDLR elements increased attacks on FARDC outposts in Rutshuru territory, possibly to re-establish their freedom of movement or to capture supplies and weapons. In South Kivu, FDLR continued to commit human rights abuses and other acts of banditry, especially along the Mwenga to Bukavu axis, in isolated villages and around artisanal mining sites.

15. In North Kivu, the security situation along the Goma-Rutshuru road has deteriorated significantly, with an increase in incidents of armed robbery, murder and kidnapping. On 8 April, unidentified elements fired on a MONUSCO night patrol in Rutshuru territory, injuring six peacekeepers. On 21 and 23 April, two anti-tank mines were discovered on the Goma-Rutshuru road. Three United Nations Mine Action Service contractors were kidnapped by unidentified armed men on 23 April and released on 28 April. On 10 May, the Governor of North Kivu publicly stated that since October 2014 there had been 100 separate cases of kidnapping in Nyiragongo and Rutshuru territories, and called for action by the national authorities.

16. In Fizi territory (South Kivu), skirmishes continued between Mayi-Mayi Yakutumba and FARDC. In Kabare, Kalehe, Shabunda and Walungu territories, Mayi-Mayi Raia Mutomboki factions remained active, with reports of harassment of the population, abductions, looting, extortion and rapes in the vicinity of mining sites. On 1 and 2 May, Mayi-Mayi Raia Mutomboki elements launched a violent attack on Kikamba village in Shabunda territory, during which serious allegations of mass rapes were reported. MONUSCO is conducting an investigation into the allegations. Clashes between Mayi-Mayi Raia Mutomboki and FARDC also caused displacement of the population in those areas.

17. In Ituri district (Orientale), the security situation remained precarious. The Forces de résistance patriotiques de l'Ituri (FRPI) continued activities in the areas of Gety and Aveba, with an increase in reports of human rights abuses, including a number of allegations of rape and gang rape. From 1 April to mid-May, FRPI reportedly committed 50 separate human rights abuses against more than 200 victims, including 26 cases of rape, 19 murders and more than 20 instances of looting and destruction of property. On 10 May, FRPI elements attacked two villages, looting goods and allegedly raping 15 women. Also during that period, FRPI were generally more aggressive towards FARDC and MONUSCO. On 20 March, suspected FRPI elements opened fire on a MONUSCO helicopter carrying out reconnaissance near Gety. On 8 May, FRPI elements launched an attack on a camp of FARDC south-east of Gety, during which three FARDC soldiers were killed.

18. On 17 May, four key FRPI commanders gathered approximately 300 combatants near Bukiringi to surrender. The Minister of Defence, Veterans and Reintegration, along with a number of FARDC generals, travelled to Bunia to secure

the surrender of FRPI. Initially, FRPI agreed to surrender on 25 May in Aveba. Negotiations failed, however, as it insisted on in situ integration into FARDC and an amnesty, which were both rejected by the Government. The Government then gave FRPI until 2 June to make a final decision and established a committee of 25 local leaders and representatives to continue the negotiations and secure the voluntary disarmament of FRPI. No progress had been made by the deadline, however. On 3 June, FARDC, in cooperation with MONUSCO, launched military operations against FRPI in Aveba. MONUSCO ground troops and attack helicopters engaged FRPI in and around Aveba in support of the FARDC operations. Unarmed unmanned aerial vehicles were deployed to track FRPI as it left Aveba and the intelligence collected was shared with FARDC to inform the planning of ongoing operations. As at 15 June, 34 FRPI elements had been killed and at least 46 confirmed injured during the operations. No civilian casualties had been reported. FRPI has also started to surrender as a result of the operations, with 5 FRPI elements with weapons and 16 without weapons surrendering since the launch of the operations. The operations are ongoing.

19. In Haut-Uélé and Bas-Uélé, there were reports of frequent looting, acts of banditry and short-term abductions of civilians by elements of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). LRA was active mainly in the Azande hunting domain in Garamba National Park and on the Dungu-Duru-Nabiapai and Dungu-Faradje-Aba axes. LRA elements carried out attacks on national security forces, killing three FARDC soldiers. LRA elements also abducted at least 41 people, using them as porters to move looted goods. About 36 abductees were later released. FARDC forces, supported by MONUSCO and the United States Africa Command, continued to conduct operations against LRA in the affected areas. MONUSCO also continued its disarmament sensitization campaign to encourage LRA elements to surrender.

20. In northern Katanga, the security situation remained precarious. An increase in the spillover of FDLR activities from South Kivu under the pressure of Operation Sukola II was reported. In Tanganyika territory, there was an escalation in the conflict between the Luba and the Twa communities. On 30 April, near Nyunzu village, Luba self-defence groups called "Eléments katangais" set on fire a camp for internally displaced persons hosting nearly 300 Twa and killed at least 62 civilians. On 2 May, "Eléments katangais" targeted MONUSCO, setting on fire the bushes surrounding a MONUSCO deployment following rumours that MONUSCO was supporting the Twa community. Since January, 221 people from both communities have been killed, 106 people have been wounded and 58 cases of rape have been reported. In Mitwaba and Pweto territories there has been a reported decline in the activities of Mayi-Mayi Kata-Katanga following a number of successful FARDC operations that led to the fragmentation of the group and the loss of its central command and control structure. However, the security situation remains negatively affected by the continued presence of the armed group.

D. Humanitarian situation

21. The humanitarian situation deteriorated in several areas of eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo as a result of significant increases in killings, sexual violence and abductions, especially in Beni and Rutshuru territories. This resulted in limited access to agricultural land for the local population and a rise in humanitarian needs.

In turn, increased insecurity hampered humanitarian access to the populations of those areas and rendered protection efforts by humanitarian actors very difficult.

22. The total number of internally displaced persons in the Democratic Republic of the Congo is estimated at 2.8 million, and approximately 6.5 million people are in a situation of acute food insecurity. The estimated number of new internally displaced persons in the first quarter of 2015 was 337,000, almost two thirds of whom are in North Kivu, partially as a result of the launch of military operations by FARDC against FDLR in late February. In addition, more than 11,500 people were newly displaced in Manono and Nyunzu territories in Katanga province in late March, following the escalation of the conflict between the Luba and the Twa communities.

23. As at 31 May, the number of refugees in the Democratic Republic of the Congo had almost doubled from 122,000 to an estimated 237,967. In addition to 117,000 refugees from Rwanda, there was an influx of 10,563 refugees from Burundi and an increase in the number of refugees from the Central African Republic from 68,000 to 84,281.

E. Economic developments

24. The Democratic Republic of the Congo has maintained relative macroeconomic stability. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) estimates the expected growth rate of the economy in 2015 to be at 9.2 per cent. The annual inflation rate increased slightly from 0.24 per cent to 1.36 per cent in the second quarter of 2015. Concerns remain, however, about falling commodity prices and delayed investments in the private sector ahead of the national elections in 2016. The Democratic Republic of the Congo continues to face many challenges to achieving broad-based and more inclusive growth. Progress on structural reforms aimed at strengthening the financial sector, improving the business climate through enforcing the rule of law and strengthening natural resources management through greater transparency and better governance remains critical.

25. As part of its initiatives to improve the regulatory framework of the extractive industries, the Government submitted a draft mining law to the Parliament on 17 March. In addition to its efforts to improve the traceability of tin, wolframite, coltan and gold extraction in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Government facilitated a meeting of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region on 17 and 18 April in Kinshasa to discuss how to improve coordination of activities to combat mineral fraud and smuggling within the region. At the meeting, 17 specific recommendations to protect the official trade of minerals in the region and foster regional integration were adopted.

F. Regional developments

26. There was limited progress in the implementation of the Nairobi Declarations of 12 December 2013. A technical mission of the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to Kigali from 20 to 23 April resulted in the voluntary repatriation of 13 of the 453 registered former elements of the Movement of 23 March (M23) in Rwanda. The handover of ex-M23 weaponry and military equipment was deferred pending the identification of their origin by United Nations

experts on conventional arms. In order to expedite the repatriation of the remaining ex-M23 combatants from Rwanda and Uganda, the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region decided during an extraordinary summit on 18 May in Luanda to establish a mechanism comprising the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Uganda, the African Union, the International Conference, the Southern African Development Community and the United Nations.

27. Following a number of technical meetings, the joint Democratic Republic of the Congo-Rwanda border demarcation commission commenced construction of 22 border markings in disputed border areas in April, which may help to reduce border skirmishes and defuse tensions between the two countries.

III. Mandate implementation

A. Strategic dialogue between the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the United Nations

28. The Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the United Nations undertook effective steps to enter into a regular strategic dialogue to develop jointly a road map and exit strategy for MONUSCO.

29. Four plenary meetings, co-chaired by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Raymond Tshibanda, and my Special Representative for the Democratic Republic of the Congo, were held in Kinshasa on 25 March and on 1, 8 and 15 April in the context of the strategic dialogue. Upon the suggestion of the Government, four working groups were established to discuss key issues of concern, including with regard to the strategic review and the development of an exit strategy for MONUSCO, the elections, human rights and communications.

30. From 21 to 25 April, the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations visited the Democratic Republic of the Congo. He met the President and members of the Government to discuss ways to improve cooperation between the United Nations and the Government and to discuss the way forward with regard to the strategic dialogue and to reach agreement on joint objectives and a road map for an exit strategy for MONUSCO.

31. Building on the joint assessment process initiated in 2010, on 15 April MONUSCO and the Government adopted terms of reference to assess the situation in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, which considered aspects relating to the security situation, the protection of civilians, the restoration of State authority and the activities of FARDC and MONUSCO. On 14 May, joint provincial teams commenced evaluations in conflict-affected territories in Katanga, North Kivu, Orientale and South Kivu. From 25 to 30 May, a team from Kinshasa visited Bunia, Goma and Kalemie and received briefings from all the provincial teams. The team comprised 16 MONUSCO and government representatives, including from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of the Interior, FARDC, the Congolese national police and intelligence services. Cooperation between MONUSCO and national and provincial government representatives was excellent throughout the assessment exercise. The team is currently finalizing the joint report for submission to the plenary of the strategic dialogue.

32. The issue of the resumption of support to FARDC operations against FDLR was raised in a number of meetings with the Government in the context of the strategic dialogue. Discussions are ongoing with a view to resolving the differences between the Government and the United Nations in that regard.

33. With regard to the next steps, the joint assessment of the security situation in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo — once agreed upon by both the United Nations and the Government — should provide a solid basis for further discussion on other aspects relating to reducing the risk of instability, as outlined in subparagraph 6 (b) of Security Council resolution 2211 (2015). It should also help to determine targets that would trigger the gradual and progressive reduction of the MONUSCO Force.

B. National processes and the good offices role of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Elections

34. In keeping with its good offices mandate, MONUSCO intensified contacts with a range of actors from across the political spectrum and civil society in the context of the electoral process. The Mission continued to assist the national independent electoral commission in enhancing dialogue with political parties through the commission's consultative framework committee. It sensitized women's associations and political parties to increase the participation of women in the upcoming elections. The Mission also provided limited technical assistance to the commission in establishing systems for the registration of candidates and to identify voters in the electoral districts. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) continued to provide technical assistance for the electoral process. The "Projet d'assistance au cycle électoral" remains largely unfunded and non-operational.

Security sector reform

35. The Mission made further efforts to enhance coordination of the assistance provided by international partners through its regular strategic coordination mechanisms and informal sectorial contacts. It continued exchanges with a range of Government interlocutors to ensure a common understanding of the challenges ahead, while providing coherent support and technical advice.

36. In the absence of a comprehensive national security sector reform strategy and road map, specific activities have been conducted in the areas of justice, defence and police reform in accordance with relevant action plans. In particular, MONUSCO continued to promote civil-military relations by supporting the "Service d'éducation civique, patriotique et de l'action sociale", a body of FARDC dedicated to raising awareness within the armed forces of human rights, child protection and gender and sexual violence.

37. The Mission sought to increase further the visibility and capacity of the Inspection générale de la police, the internal control body of the Congolese national police, to process complaints filed by victims and their relatives. Although MONUSCO supported efforts to reform the management of human resources in the

national police and to develop a national training curriculum, financial constraints and limited accountability hampered progress. In support of the national police, the United Nations police trained 268 cadets in basic police duties, 328 in public order management, the code of ethics and human rights principles and 15 in information gathering and analysis. The United Nations police, in collaboration with the technical group for election security, organized a training workshop on the administrative rules and regulations of public order management for 10 deputy provincial commissioners of the national police. A total of 96 joint United Nations police-Congolese national police patrols were organized to monitor and mentor the units under their command in North Kivu and South Kivu.

38. The Mission supported the organization of the "Etats généraux de la justice", a national conference intended to assess the state of the justice system. Some 300 experts and civil society representatives developed recommendations to improve the functioning of the national justice system in accordance with international standards. The Mission and UNDP, through the joint justice support programme, provided technical assistance to the steering committee established by the Minister of Justice and Human Rights to monitor the implementation of the recommendations that should eventually inform the development of a justice and corrections reform strategy.

Regional dimension

39. The Mission continued to work closely with the Office of my Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region, including by facilitating preparations for a Great Lakes private sector investment conference scheduled tentatively for early 2016. The Mission also supported the organization of the inaugural grantee convening of the women's platform of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework, held in Goma from 13 to 15 May. The meeting was organized by the Office of my Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region and brought together 60 women leaders representing 35 grass-roots organizations from Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda and Uganda, who deliberated on a common agenda to enhance regional peace processes.

Consolidation of State authority and stabilization

40. There was progress towards the stabilization of eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. On 8 April, the steering committee, chaired by the Minister of Planning, of the national stabilization and reconstruction programme for areas emerging from armed conflict validated the provincial stabilization strategies and action plans for North Kivu, Orientale and South Kivu. Under the International Security and Stabilization Support Strategy, the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund pledged additional resources to catalyse increased donor engagement. At the request of the Minister, MONUSCO supported the development of a number of legal documents (draft decrees and internal rules of procedure) to improve the functioning of State structures at the national and provincial levels in the stabilization process.

41. Partners of the national stabilization and reconstruction plan, supported by MONUSCO, launched programmes to mobilize resources to address conflict drivers in priority areas. In Mambasa in Ituri district (Orientale), a series of dialogue sessions funded by the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund took place, bringing

together representatives of territorial administrations, national security forces and local communities to discuss issues of land, identity, mining and forestry.

42. The Mission supported the national police in re-establishing 35 police stations in former FDLR- and ADF-held areas in Beni, Eringeti, Oicha and Rutshuru. Islands of stability have been established in Eringeti, Kamango, Luofo, Mambasa, Masisi, Rutshuru, Sange and Walikale. Approximately $4 million in quick impact project funds have been committed to projects in the islands of stability, primarily in support of national police, justice and corrections institutions and community projects.

C. Protection of civilians and neutralization of armed groups

43. The Mission reinforced its presence in the area of Beni with a view to enhancing its efforts to protect civilians and reduce the threat posed by ADF. In support of FARDC, MONUSCO conducted aerial reconnaissance to gather information about ADF installations and possible hideouts. MONUSCO supported operations by FARDC against ADF in the area, including through providing fire support, while continuing to conduct patrols with a particular focus on areas identified as ADF movement corridors. In the period under review, FARDC, with MONUSCO support, destroyed an ADF camp and neutralized at least one senior leader. The Mission reinforced and intensified joint patrols by formed police units and the national police in the area of Beni.

44. The Mission continued to support the establishment and operation of 56 community alert networks and 80 local protection committees in conflict-affected areas in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. The networks and the committees helped to protect civilians from risks through enhanced cooperation with local security services, local authorities, civil society and local communities. The Mission responded, alone or in support of FARDC, the national police or local authorities, to 118 protection alerts of the 188 received from local community alert networks, effectively deterring the perceived threat or leading to the arrest of the perpetrators. In 70 cases it proved impossible to respond owing to the inaccessibility of the location, late receipt of the alert or imprecise information.

45. In North Kivu, MONUSCO conducted operation "Safe Rutshuru", increasing its troop presence to deter attacks by armed elements and groups. The Mission provided escorts to commercial transports in the areas of concern.

46. Discussions between MONUSCO and the Government are ongoing with a view to resuming the Mission's support to Operation Sukola II of FARDC against FDLR in North Kivu and South Kivu.

47. In Ituri district (Orientale), MONUSCO supported the Government in negotiations with FRPI. When the negotiations broke down, MONUSCO supported FARDC in engaging the armed group militarily while continuing non-military measures to encourage FRPI to surrender.

D. Transformation of the Force

48. Further to the recommendation of the strategic review and as requested by the Council in its resolution 2211 (2015), MONUSCO is developing measures to

maximize the flexibility of its Force to respond more effectively to evolving challenges on the ground. This entails the creation of rapidly deployable battalions, as well as a set of measures aimed at modernizing the Force. Efforts are under way to determine mobility requirements based on a needs assessment, including utility helicopters to ensure rapid deployment and to assess intelligence capabilities. MONUSCO is also in the process of reducing its troops in accordance with the resolution. To date, some 850 military personnel (out of at least 2,000 to be reduced) have already been repatriated. The reduction and transformation of the Force will require enhanced coordination and cooperation with FARDC, in particular in areas in which MONUSCO troops are being reduced, in order to avoid a security vacuum.

E. Safety and security of United Nations personnel within the context of operations of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

49. The Mission concluded that, in the period under review, military operations did not result in any discernible increase in threats to United Nations personnel. Nevertheless, the Mission relocated non-essential staff from Beni and took relevant risk mitigation measures to address changes in the local security situation in certain areas, such as Beni. The Mission also reviewed its operations and procedures in the light of the ADF attacks on peacekeepers on 5 May.

F. Monitoring the implementation of the arms embargo

50. The Mission continued its efforts to monitor the arms embargo, including through supporting the Group of Experts established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1533 (2004). Relevant information on flows of military personnel, arms and related materiel across the eastern border of the Democratic Republic of the Congo was shared with the Group of Experts.

G. Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration/disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, resettlement and reintegration

51. The third phase of the third national disarmament, demobilization and reintegration plan was officially launched by the Minister of Defence in Kitona (Bas-Congo) on 16 May and in Kamina (Katanga) on 21 May. To date, the Government has released $1.5 million of the $10 million contribution it has pledged, while reiterating its intention to honour the pledge in full. When new ex-combatants surfaced in the context of operations against armed groups in Ituri, North Kivu and South Kivu, the Government expressed its intention to release additional funds to accommodate new surrenders. The Unité d'exécution du Programme national de désarmement, démobilisation et réintégration (UEPNDDR) is currently providing food and medical support in FARDC transit camps and has processed demobilization and disarmament certification. As at 12 June, UEPNDDR had demobilized 1,329 ex-combatants in Kamina and 1,130 in Kitona. It also conducted triage, including by separating children, foreign ex-combatants and refugees, while referring cases relating to mental health to specialist services.

52. The Mission continued to support efforts to encourage the disarmament of foreign and Congolese combatants in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. By 11 June, 212 former members of Congolese armed groups (46 male ex-combatants, 147 children associated with the armed groups and 19 dependants) and 113 members of foreign armed groups (51 male ex-combatants, 4 children associated with the armed groups and 58 dependants) voluntarily entered the disarmament, demobilization, reintegration, repatriation and resettlement programme. Of the former members of Congolese and foreign armed groups, 97 were male ex-combatants, including 64 from FDLR, 151 were children associated with armed groups and 77 were dependants. As at 11 June, 326 FDLR former combatants and 1,078 of their dependants who had disarmed voluntarily remained in assembly camps in Kanyabayonga (North Kivu), Kisangani (Orientale) and Walungu (South Kivu).

H. Mine action

53. The Mine Action Service of the United Nations conducted activities to clear unexploded ordnance throughout the area of operations of MONUSCO. The Mine Action Service conducted clearance in 68 areas of concern in North Kivu and Orientale, destroying 192 items of explosive remnants of war and 3,694 small arms and ammunition. On 21 and 23 April, the Mine Action Service destroyed in situ two newly laid anti-tank mines on the Goma-Rutshuru road.

I. Promotion and protection of human rights and the fight against impunity

54. The human rights situation remained a source of concern. In the eastern part of the country, the situation continued to be marked by conflict and by violations committed by armed groups and FARDC, often during operations. The situation in the western provinces, particularly in Kinshasa, was affected more by the restriction of political space and violations of fundamental freedoms, including the freedoms of expression, association and peaceful assembly.

55. Between March and May 2015, almost 60 per cent of the 810 human rights violations registered by the United Nations Joint Human Rights Office were perpetrated by different armed groups; approximately 40 per cent were committed by State agents. Among the State agents, FARDC soldiers were responsible for 104 human rights violations, the highest number, while national police agents allegedly committed 89 violations.

56. FRPI elements were responsible for 76 human rights violations, the highest number of violations committed by a single armed group during the reporting period. The high number of violations committed by FRPI was partly as a result of the failed negotiations on the group's surrender following the arrest of its leader, Justin Matata Banaloki (alias Cobra Matata), in January 2015, as well as a certain radicalization of the group.

57. In the context of the electoral process, MONUSCO noted the increased restriction of fundamental freedoms and political rights, targeting mainly political opponents, human rights defenders and representatives of the media. At least four

violations of the right to the liberty and security of the person against 45 victims, one violation of the right to physical integrity against four victims and four violations of the right to peaceful assembly were documented in Kinshasa and Goma. On 15 March in Kinshasa, at least 30 people were arrested by State agents during a workshop organized by Filimbi, a civil society platform, to encourage the participation of young people in the democratic process in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Most have been released, while others have been transferred to Makala central prison in Kinshasa, charged with different offences. The Burkinabé and Senegalese activists who took part in the workshop were expelled from the country. The Mission also continued to follow up the case of other prominent human rights defenders and political activists arrested during the demonstrations of January 2015, by advocating for them to be put under judicial oversight and for the respect of due process.

58. Through its prosecution support cells, MONUSCO, with the support of UNDP, assisted nine investigation missions and 10 mobile courts in Katanga, North Kivu, Orientale and South Kivu. It continued to provide extensive technical support to the military justice authorities in North Kivu in their ongoing investigations into the crimes allegedly committed by ADF in the areas of Beni and Oicha in recent months.

59. MONUSCO corrections staff co-located in the prisons continued to support the administration in ensuring that penitentiary institutions were safe and secure and that the rights of detainees were protected. In support of the professionalization of the management of prisons, MONUSCO assisted in training 187 officers on incident management, including 30 trainers and 18 women.

J. Sexual violence

60. The Mission recorded 65 victims of sexual violence in conflict during the period under review. Fifty victims were allegedly raped by elements of armed groups, with FRPI responsible for sexual violence against 33 victims, most of them gang raped in several incidents in Irumu territory (Orientale). The Mission received reports of serious allegations of extensive sexual violence by members of self-defence groups in the context of the conflict between the Twa and the Luba communities in northern Katanga. Insecurity in the area has prevented MONUSCO from verifying reports of sexual mutilation against men, and of the rape of mainly Luba women by Twa elements.

61. The Mission continued to support efforts by the Government to combat sexual violence, with the Government convening the initial meetings of the monitoring committee of the FARDC action plan against sexual violence. Pursuant to the three-month workplan, 10 senior FARDC commanders signed a personal commitment to actively combat sexual violence in their units.

K. Child protection

62. The Mission facilitated the separation of 431 children (14 girls and 417 boys) from armed groups, including seven Rwandan nationals. The majority of children had been recruited by FDLR (286), followed by Mayi-Mayi Nyatura (42) and FRPI (13). They included 62 children formerly associated with armed groups detained by

FARDC and separated by MONUSCO. Persistent insecurity and the lack of sustainable reintegration in areas in which children are reunited pose a high risk of re-recruitment by armed groups. During the reporting period, 34 child casualties (16 girls and 18 boys) of conflict-related violence were documented in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo.

63. In line with the joint action plan of the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the United Nations on ending and preventing child recruitment by armed groups, the Mission identified only one child after screening 7,843 FARDC troops.

IV. Observations

64. I welcome the efforts of the President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to reach out to the political opposition and other national stakeholders. I urge all the actors concerned to continue to explore political initiatives with a view to building consensus on the unfolding electoral process. I call upon all parties to work together to resolve their differences in a peaceful manner and to create the conditions for a credible and inclusive electoral process. This will require the creation of the political space needed for a peaceful and credible electoral process, including through respect for the freedoms of assembly and of expression. It is now essential for the parties and national institutions to ensure that any issues that could undermine the credibility of the process are addressed so that elections can take place in accordance with the Constitution. The challenges associated with the completion of the technical preparations are not to be underestimated. I am convinced that they can be overcome through the proactive engagement of Congolese stakeholders and with the support of the international community. I encourage the Government to put an adequate electoral budget in place as soon as possible and to conduct a credible update of the electoral register to ensure the successful and timely holding of elections. I also encourage the Government and my Special Representative for the Democratic Republic of the Congo to continue to advocate, with the political parties, for an increase in the proportion of women as voters and as candidates for elected offices.

65. I am encouraged by the concrete steps taken by the Government to enter into a regular strategic dialogue with MONUSCO to improve cooperation and jointly develop an exit strategy for the Mission, in accordance with Security Council resolution 2211 (2015). The resumption of the joint assessment process initiated in 2010 should lead to a common understanding of the main threats and challenges facing conflict-affected provinces in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. It should also provide a solid basis for subsequent discussions, including on political aspects and specific indicators that would trigger a reduction of the MONUSCO Force. I encourage the Government to pursue discussions with the United Nations in a spirit of mutual trust and confidence. The dialogue should be viewed as an opportunity to redefine the partnership between the United Nations and the Government and improve cooperation, which would greatly facilitate the transfer of responsibilities from MONUSCO to the Government and the Mission's exit. I intend to submit recommendations in this regard in my next report to the Security Council.

66. I am nevertheless concerned about the continuing violence in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, in particular the atrocities perpetrated by

various armed groups. I condemn in the strongest terms the senseless attacks committed by ADF against defenceless civilians in the area of Beni, which also inflicted heavy casualties on FARDC. I strongly condemn the killing, on 5 May, of two United Nations peacekeepers from the United Republic of Tanzania and the wounding of 13 others when a MONUSCO convoy came under fire from suspected ADF elements. I offer my sincere condolences and sympathy to the bereaved families and the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania. The United Nations remains committed to taking all necessary action to protect civilians and neutralize armed groups in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, in line with Security Council resolution 2211 (2015). I commend the continued efforts of the Government to conduct military operations against FDLR and I hope that outstanding issues will soon be resolved and full security cooperation between FARDC and MONUSCO can resume in this regard. Addressing the issue of FDLR is a shared priority. Enhanced cooperation between FARDC and MONUSCO will not only benefit the local population but also accelerate progress towards reducing the threat from armed groups, which has been identified as one of the key criteria guiding the gradual drawdown of the Mission. Operations by FARDC, supported by MONUSCO, against FRPI, demonstrate the benefits of enhanced cooperation.

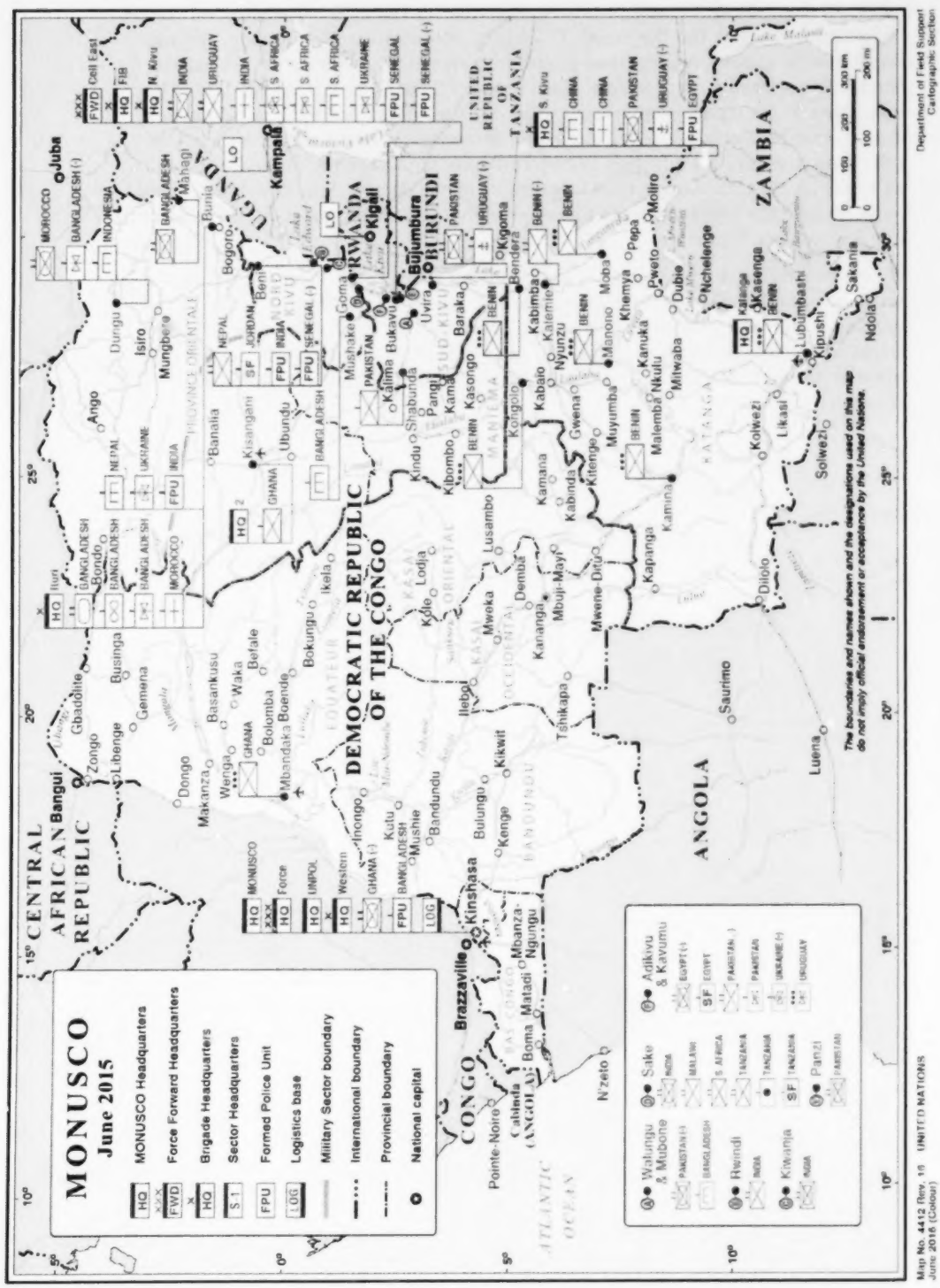
67. As I have highlighted in previous reports, there is no purely military solution to the problem of armed groups in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. Achieving durable peace and stability will require the root causes of conflict to be addressed, including the extension of State authority, the finding of sustainable solutions for former combatants and development. I am encouraged by the recent launch of the third national disarmament, demobilization and reintegration plan and call upon the Government to ensure its effective implementation. I encourage other partners to support the creation of sustainable reintegration initiatives to prevent former combatants from taking up weapons again.

68. I am encouraged by the fact that human rights violations, including sexual abuse and violence attributable to the security forces, have received greater attention from the Congolese authorities. While this underscores the genuine attempts by the Government to combat impunity, more needs to be done. I commend the signing of the "acte d'engagement" by senior FARDC officers to fight sexual violence and the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission and the adoption of its internal rules and regulations to safeguard its effectiveness and independence, which are steps in the right direction. At the same time, I regret that Congolese citizens continue to be subjected to arbitrary arrests by the security agencies for merely trying to exercise their fundamental constitutional freedoms. I urge the Government to ensure that all those arrested are subjected to judicial oversight and are afforded due process and a fair trial. I also encourage the Government to hold accountable those members of the security forces allegedly responsible for serious human rights violations during the popular demonstrations of January 2015 and to ensure that the security forces refrain from the disproportionate use of force.

69. There will be no solution to the conflict in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo unless its regional dimension is addressed. To achieve this, it is critical that the signatories and guarantors of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Region demonstrate greater engagement in the implementation of their commitments. I call upon all stakeholders concerned to support the efforts of my Special Envoy for the Great

Lakes Region, Said Djinnit, to revitalize the governance structures of the Framework, notably the Regional Oversight Mechanism. Reinforcing judicial cooperation is equally important to ensure that signatory countries do not harbour individuals allegedly responsible for serious human rights violations. The completion of the repatriation process of ex-M23 members and the implementation of the Nairobi Declarations also remain essential to addressing some of the underlying causes of the situation in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo and the region. I thus encourage the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to take the necessary steps to complete the repatriation of ex-M23 elements from Rwanda and Uganda.

70. In conclusion, I wish to extend my gratitude to my Special Representative for the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Martin Kobler, all MONUSCO staff and the agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, as well as other international and regional organizations and the troop- and police-contributing countries for their active engagement in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in the service of peace.


MONUSCO
June 2015
MONUSCO Headquarters
Force Forward Headquarters
Brigade Headquarters
Sector Headquarters
Formed Police Unit
Logistics base
Military Sector boundary
International boundary
Provincial boundary
National capital
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC
ANGOLA
ZAMBIA
UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
RWANDA
BURUNDI
UGANDA
CONGO
Bangui
Brazzaville
Kinshasa
Juba
Kampala
Kigali
Bujumbura
Pointe-Noire
Cabinda (ANGOLA)
Boma
Matadi
Mbanza-Ngungu
Kikwit
Bandundu
Kenge
Bulungu
Ilebo
Mbuji-Mayi
Kananga
Tshikapa
Kamina
Kolwezi
Likasi
Lubumbashi
Kipushi
Ndola
Sakania
Kasenga
Nchelenge
Mbala
Mpulungu
Kalemie
Uvira
Baraka
Fizi
Bukavu
Goma
Beni
Butembo
Bunia
Isiro
Dungu
Gemena
Zongo
Libenge
Businga
Gbadolite
Ango
Bondo
Buta
Kisangani
Basankusu
Befale
Waka
Bolomba
Mbandaka
Boende
Bokungu
Ikela
Lodja
Kole
Lusambo
Mweka
Dekese
Demba
Kamana
Kabinda
Kitenge
Gwena
Muyumba
Kabalo
Kongolo
Manono
Moba
Kiambi
Pepa
Pweto
Moliro
Dubie
Nchelenge
Kanyama
Nkulu
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Saurimo
Luena
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Sakania
Ndola
Kigoma
Bujumbura
Uvira
Baraka
Fizi
Kasongo
Kibombo
Kindu
Shabunda
Pangi
Kama
Kalima
Bukavu
Goma
Sake
Kitchanga
Mushaki
Masisi
Walungu & Mubone
Kiwanja
Rwindi
Pinga
Adikivu & Kavumu
Kalemie
Nyunzu
Kabimba
Benedera
Kigoma
Moliro
Pepa
Kiambi
Manono
Moba
Kiambi
Kanyama
Nkulu
Mitwaba
Malemba
Kaniama
Kapanga
Dilolo
Saurimo
Luena
Solwezi
Kasaji
Kalenga
Kasenga
Lubumbashi
Kipushi
Sakania
Ndola
Nchelenge
Dubie
Pweto

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Agenda item 107
Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Security Council
Seventieth year

Identical letters dated 29 June 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I should like to draw to your attention the following:

A number of Syrian cities, including Dar'a, Hasakah, Ayn al-Arab and other peaceful cities and towns, were recently the targets of terrorist attacks directed at civilian inhabitants and State institutions. Those attacks are a continuation of the terrorist war to which Syria has been subjected for more than four years, a war that has been waged with direct and open support from States that are by now well known to all, including Turkey, Israel, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, France and other Western States.

The terrorist attacks against those cities, as well as the acts of terrorism that have taken place recently in Tunisia, Kuwait, Iraq and other countries, and which Syrian strongly condemns, are a natural consequence of the silence of the international community towards the States sponsoring and supporting terrorism in Syria, and its failure to take deterrent measures against those States. Those terrorist crimes confirm yet again what the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic has warned of repeatedly: no one is immune from the threat of terrorism, which knows no borders, religion or morals, and which, if not combated and eradicated, will spread to all the States of the region and the world, including the very States that support and nurture it. If the international community fails to marshal its combined forces today against the terrorism represented by Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), the Nusrah Front and other terrorist organizations, the world will become a place of chaos, murder and bloodshed.

The recent terrorist attacks coincided with the escalation by armed terrorist groups of their crimes in more than one Syrian city, with the direct support of Turkey, Jordan, Israel, Saudi Arabia and Qatar. We draw attention in this regard to the video that was posted on the website of the Turkish newspaper *Cumhuriyet* showing Turkish terrorists boasting about their attacks on the city of Ayn al-Arab,

which is also known as Kobani. On Thursday, 25 June 2015, that city was attacked by foreign terrorists belonging to ISIL who had infiltrated Syria from Turkey. The attack, which resulted in the deaths of more than 200 Syrian civilians, most of them women and children, and injuries to dozens more, demonstrated yet again the Erdoğan Government's unabashed support for those groups and for ISIL.

The city of Dar'a was also the target of multi-pronged terrorist attack, as terrorist groups unleashed hundreds of missiles on peaceful residential neighbourhoods, resulting in the death and injury of dozens of civilians. On this occasion, the attackers were members of Nusrah Front and Army of Conquest gangs, reinforced by heavy equipment and high-quality Israeli weaponry. They infiltrated Syrian territory from Jordan, which provides them with safe haven, training and arms, with the support of Israel and Saudi Arabia. Many Syrians returning from Jordan, as well as the news agencies, have spoken of training camps for what the terrorism-sponsoring States call "the moderate armed opposition." Those sources have reported that the Jordanian authorities, in coordination with Saudi Arabia, have provided training courses for Syrian terrorists in the Azraq region of Jordan and at the King Abdulaziz Air Base. That is not to mention the direct logistical support that Israel has provided to those armed terrorist groups, which has included transporting approximately 2,000 injured terrorists for treatment in Israeli hospitals and then returning them across the ceasefire line to resume their terrorist activities in Syria, in flagrant violation of the Disengagement of Forces Agreement between the two sides.

What happened in Ayn al-Arab and Dar'a cannot be cannot be considered separately from what is happening now in the city of Hasakah. ISIL, supported by large numbers of foreign terrorists, is systematically carrying out terrorist attacks against that city in plain view of aircraft belonging to the United States-led coalition. Those gangs, reinforced by various equipment and weaponry, are currently committing all kinds of crimes, including bombings, destruction, beheadings and the murder of innocent civilians, producing an ever increasing toll of dead and injured, and causing a fresh wave of forced internal displacement.

Various reports have connected this despicable terrorism with operations rooms, such as the notorious Amman operations room and another one in Turkey, where officers from Jordan, Turkey, France, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Britain, the United States and other countries give orders for attacks on Syria and the slaughter of its citizens. They coordinate attacks and provide the terrorists with instructions and criminal plans for continuing the murder and destruction in Syrian cities and towns. In a recent statement at the Human Rights Council in Geneva, the representative of Saudi Arabia reaffirmed that his country would continue to supply weapons to what he called his "Syrian brethren", while the Jordanian monarch announced his decision to arm what he called "Syrian and Iraqi tribes". Those actions are blatant and unacceptable interference in the internal affairs of those countries.

The criminal terrorist attacks that recently occurred in many parts of the world and left numerous innocent victims in their wake confirm the correctness of the positions and views of the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic regarding terrorism. The Government regards terrorism as an absolute evil that has no single point of origin, and it believes that countering terrorism requires a truly joint international effort under the aegis of the United Nations. Instead, certain States, including permanent Security Council members the United States, France and the

United Kingdom, are trying to undermine Security Council resolutions 2170 (2014), 2178 (2014) and 2199 (2015).

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic stresses the need for States to fulfil their legal obligations and moral duties, and for the Security Council to take without delay deterrent measures against the terrorism-sponsoring States that are violating Security Council counter-terrorism resolutions, international law and the Charter of the United Nations, and threatening international peace and security. The Syrian Government also calls on the States of Members of the United Nations to cooperate in combating the scourge of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations; to expose those States that are supporting terrorism, whatever their pretext, and call on them to desist from doing so; and to join hands with the Syrian Government, which has been fighting terrorism for over four years in order to defend the security and safety of its citizens and preserve international peace and security.

The so-called open war on terrorism contrived by certain parties, including certain States that support terrorist groups, has been going on for almost a year, but it has achieved virtually none of its goals. Instead, it has permitted ISIL, the Nusrah Front and the terrorist groups that are affiliated and allied with them to expand, move around and spread with complete freedom not only in Syria and Iraq, but also in Egypt, Libya and Yemen, in certain African States and, most recently, in Kuwait and Tunisia.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 107, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative